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IRC PRESIDENT RESIGNS

PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS TAINT "FRIENDLY" COUNCIL

by Zachary Schwartz

Citing that the behaviour of council was making it impossible for her to do her job, Karen Hurley has resigned from the presidency of the Inter-Residence Council (IRC).

The resignation follows a mass protest against Hurley by councillors of the IRC. At their November 13 meeting, most of council walked out on Hurley with no explanation.

"The character of this walk-out is representative of many unfair incidents that happened during my term, making it impossible to do my job as elected," wrote Hurley in her letter of resignation.

She said council members

used back-room politics that left her no choice but to resign.

Dave Reeveli, president of McConnell residence and one of the councillors who walked out on Hurley, objects to the accusation of back-room politics.

He says members of council were unhappy with Hurley's management style, and that he tried to address the issue in private.

"Anytime you criticise someone in public, that poisons the atmosphere," said Reeveli, explaining that he had approached Hurley in private to "avoid public conflict."

He says councillors didn't bring up their concerns in council meetings because it would "instantly put Karen on the defensive."

"It's not the polite way to do it," said Reeveli. "It's too aggressive. It would be an attack."

But Hurley says council meetings are the perfect forum to address such concerns. To her, councillors' refusal to



Ex-IRC president Hurley

address the issues in public was "abusive and unethical."

"The one system of official checks and balances is the democratic council meetings," said Hurley. Without the public forum, she says, there was "no-one to defend me. I was up against a wall."

Hurley can't understand why councillors didn't use the proper channels to voice their concerns at council meetings.

But Reeveli maintains that following rules and bringing

the matter to council was unnecessary. "We consider ourselves friends [at council]. We can deal with each other as grown-ups, without rules."

Brendan Cully, the only IRC executive to join the walk-out, agrees with Reeveli.

"If you feel you're dealing with friends, why do you have to make a meeting?" asks Cully. "The nature of how we did things deemed it awkward to make it official."

In hindsight, Cully regrets

the walk-out, and says that concerns should have been brought up in meetings.

Cully hopes that issues will be dealt with more formally in the future, and Tamara Malhas, who has assumed Hurley's role as IRC president, agrees.

"Their approach was so wrong; they had no respect for IRC or Karen," says Malhas.

Hurley had been elected president last year on a platform of making residence more inclusive, and has followed through this year by stressing the importance of body-image forums, queer-awareness workshops, non-drinking activities and academic advising as an "important form of reaching out to all residents and making everyone's experience an enjoyable one that they are glad they went through."

Although members of IRC say they remain committed to the issues on Hurley's agenda, Hurley believes progress will depend on whether council starts to follow procedures.

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Editorial Offices:

3480 McTavish St., Montréal, Qc.,
room B-03, H3A 1X9

Business & Advertising Office:

3480 McTavish St., Montréal, Qc.,
room B-07, H3A 1X9

editorial: (514) 398-6784
business/advertising: (514) 398-6790
fax: (514) 398-8318

business manager: Marian Schrier
assistant business manager:

Jo-Anne Pickel

advertising managers:

Boris Shedov, Letty Matteo

advertising layout & design:

Mark Brooker

cover by:

Rex Huang

contributors:

Cameron Booth, Jonah Brucker-Cohen,
Jason Chow, Derek Fung, M. Engelbert
Griffin, Rob Hancock, Jessica Howard, Rex
Huang, Finn Makela, M-J Milloy,
Samantha Murphy, Robin Perelle, Samana
Siddiqui

Co-ordinating Editor: Idella Sturino

Co-ordinating News Editor: Anup Grewal

Co-ordinating Culture Editor: Kevin Siu

News Editors: Andrea Mason, Zachary Schwartz

Culture Editors: Meredith Cohen, Mike Cullen

Features Editor: Sonia Verma

Layout & Design Co-ordinators: Netami Stuart,

Daily Français: Marc-Antoine Godin

Photo Editor: Lucy Atkinson, David Ryther

Office Co-ordinator: Andrea Cooke

Project Co-ordinator: Mark Narron

Information Editor: Vlad Nabok

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Strike narrowly defeated

TA union decides not to picket

by Jason Chow

Conferences, tutorials, and office hours for TAs have remained business as usual after the defeat of a strike motion at last Wednesday's meeting of the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM).

The motion, presented by the bargaining committee of the union, was defeated 111 votes to 108 with one spoiled ballot. Had the motion passed, TAs would have gone on strike indefinitely starting this Monday.

"Many voted against the strike because of the financial and emotional sacrifices required of strike action. The strike would have required a substantial pay cut for those who depend on their TAs," stated an AGSEM press release.

Many TAs would not have been able to survive on strike pay, argued Regina Harrison, joint co-ordinator of the union's bargaining committee. "January comes and [some] can't pay rent."

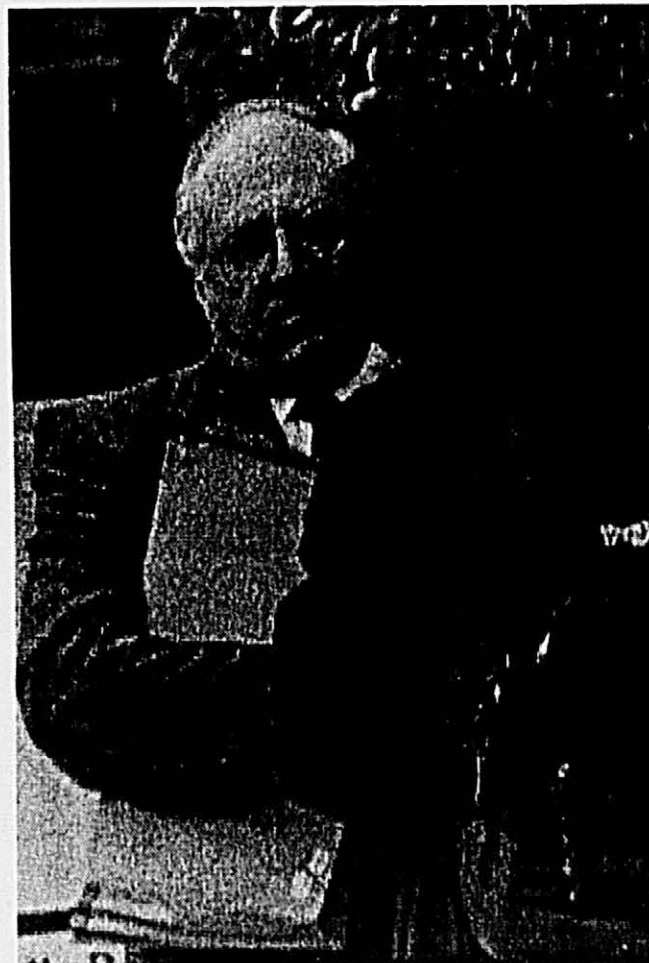
According to the bargaining committee, many voted against the strike "with the opinion that we ought to wait for the arbitrator to decide our

contract, since that will be the ultimate outcome whether there was any strike or not."

To pressure McGill back to the bargaining table, the committee hoped the union would strike. AGSEM has accused the McGill administration of challenging TAs to go to arbitration. Michael Temelini, also joint co-ordinator of the union's bargaining committee, blamed McGill for forcing the union to either "take [McGill's] final offer [submitted on October 16] or go to arbitration with the offer given in March," which had substantially fewer favourable concessions for the TAs.

But according to Robert Savoie, executive director of Human Resources, McGill's October offer was neither binding nor final. October's proposal, he argued, was the product of "conciliatory discussions" in which neither party was committed. Instead, McGill is holding to its offer tabled seven months ago — the offer that provoked the TAs to strike last spring.

He also stated in a press release that McGill was still open for negotiations. "McGill has indicated that it remains avail-



Savoie fair? Human Resources director says October proposal was neither binding nor final

able if AGSEM wishes to resume discussions."

The vote gave no clear message to the union's bargaining

committee. Temelini stated that the vote was "neither a victory or a loss for the university".

The McGill Daily

WORKING TOWARDS A

People's

by Anup Grewal

In 1984, Marianne Roy was part of a group of Quebecers who saw the beginning of hard times ahead and decided to do something about it. In March of the following year, **Solidarité Populaire Québec (SPQ)**, a coalition of anti-poverty groups, women's organisations, labour unions, and housing activists was formed.

11 years later, the hard times that the founders of SPQ had predicted, are in full swing — there are less job opportunities, people have less money and governments across Canada including in Québec, have decided that deficit reduction and business competitiveness will take precedence over the maintenance of social programmes, in order to make a wealthy society.

SPQ has been at the forefront of fighting this overarching government agenda, having developed a 'People's Charter' by Quebecers on how they want government to behave.

At October's economic summit, SPQ proposed the controversial 'zero impoverishment' clause to protect the rights of the poorest 20% in Québec. When it wasn't granted, the group walked out of the summit. And since then, they have been planning a new course of action, and are a force to contend with.

Recently, the *Daily* had the opportunity to talk to Marianne Roy, now coordinator of SPQ, about the current situation in Québec and about the work of **Solidarité Populaire Québec**.

Daily: As I understand it, Solidarité Populaire Québec was formed in 1985 as a national coalition of community and labour organisations to act as forum on major issues in society. 11 years later, how would you describe SPQ's mandate, especially in the context of Québec society today?

Marianne Roy: Fundamentally the role is still the same... but as we developed, what became clearer was that people wanted to work on alternatives, an alternative vision to the one that is being presented by big business and government. So we developed a People's Charter over a four year period which was a very democratic process where 12 themes were put out for people to work on, for example questions having to do with the state, democracy, environment, jobs, women, youth and the national question. People were asked, 'if you were in power, if you could decide, how would you try to develop

alternatives, how would you like to see things happen in those particular areas'.

From that, people presented their ideas to a commission of popular and trade union leaders who went around the province and listened to people's ideas. And then a draft went back to the 10,000 organisations and individuals all over the province. From that, in June 1994, we had a big 'National People's Assembly' in Québec city and out of that came the 'Québec People's Charter'. This lays out the vision for us. Now it is considered a reference document for all sorts of issues like collective and individual rights. And people work on how we want to put these ideas into effect. So we work on these broad vision questions to put forward as an alternative to the neoliberal agenda which is worldwide.

D: One term that is being used a lot and which you have used, is the term neoliberal.

What does this term mean to you, especially in the context of Québec today?

MR: We talk of neoliberalism as a vision that is really based on liberalism from the end of the 19th century which very simply means government should interfere as little as possible in the affairs of individuals and in the economy and just let market forces — the invisible hand — fix everything up. As long as the government doesn't intervene, wealth will be distributed evenly.

It is also the kind of vision

or approach that says that if you are poor, or unemployed, it's because it's your fault, it's not because the economy hasn't worked properly or that it is just the way it works.

The new form that it has taken since the 1970s has been one of the liberalisation of the economy — commerce — deregulation in the first place of the financial system, and finally privatisation.

The other aspect is there too, that people who lose their jobs and are poor, it's their fault instead of saying that the economic system creates inequality and so society as a whole has to compensate for those losses. So workfare, cut-backs and unemployment insurance — it's all part of the same discourse.

MR: The clause captured the imagination of the population of Québec and even around the table at the Summit, even though it was a very limited and defensive approach, but on the other hand we are on the defensive.

The clause was reduced to something even more minimal than what it already was by the government. The summit adopted that the people who cannot work and who get assistance will be protected. So it's just a small portion of people who are poor.

But there has been a debate in popular organisations whether that is a good thing or a bad thing. People say that the government has just co-opted the clause. But at the same time, people have been able to defend that clause. The government adopted that minimalist clause thinking that it wouldn't have any effect because they are not going to make cut-

backs to those people anyway — but it's not true because for the last six months they have been cutting to those people too and just shortly after the summit, there were going to be more cuts to that category of people. But people, especially tenant organisations, pointed out that no, if you implement these cuts, then you are going against the clause that you adopted. So the government had to back down from that.

But on the other hand, in no way is that enough, and it also divided poor people. There are no 'good' poor people and 'bad' poor people. We don't go along with that but that is what the government strategy is. So we want to go back to the clause that was originally proposed. Because the 20% of the poorest people we are talking about is not just those on welfare, it includes students, workers on

Québec We want to build

D: Recently, Québec Premier Lucien Bouchard has taken on this now familiar deficit cutting agenda and the idea that Québec has to be competitive to remain viable. As one of the groups proposing the zero impoverishment clause at the Economic Summit, how do you think it was a viable alternative for Québec people?

Agenda

MARIANNE ROY TALKS ON NEOLIBERALISM AND A DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

minimum wage, seniors.

So we want to continue fighting, and go beyond that to a zero poverty clause, not just a zero impoverishment clause.

We have to really do a lot of work in public opinion. We are going to be organizing a tour across Québec for next September to discuss alternatives and neoliberalism, — not just policy alternatives but also strategic alternatives. There is the realisation that we know where we want to be, but we have to know how to get there.

D: Do you think that people are being saturated by both the government rhetoric of tightening belts and at the same time of the "fight the cuts" slogans? Instead of concentrating on the negative, how much have groups like SPQ been able to provide positive alternatives?

MR: There is certainly a saturation of the government line of tightening belts. Once again this week, we have another disgusting view of how the banks have again made such huge profits. But people, in our own membership organisations have bought into the argument because it has been pounded so much into their brains, particularly in the last two years.

But at the same time people are living and they know that it's not their fault what is happening. So I think there is a despair and for those who try to work for change and organise demonstrations, we feel the government doesn't do very much.

So we need to talk about how to change things. Whenever we do an action, we do put forward alternatives, because we have to be coherent, we can't say that it's just 'bad'. And even before the cutbacks started, we were never completely pleased with the situation. It wasn't great before, but now it's being dismantled. So we have to put forward democratic alternatives.

But we need to put more energy and resources into

communication. It's difficult, but there are times like at the summit and the Women's March which grabbed the hearts of the vast majority of Quebecers

D: So, you talk of alternatives, but what are these alternatives, what is your response to neoliberalism?

MR: The neoliberal business is based on every individual for himself. Our vision is on social justice and solidarity and people's sovereignty.

D: There seem to be two grand visions and people are going to be on both sides, so how do you say that one is a viable one for Canada and Québec while the other is not?

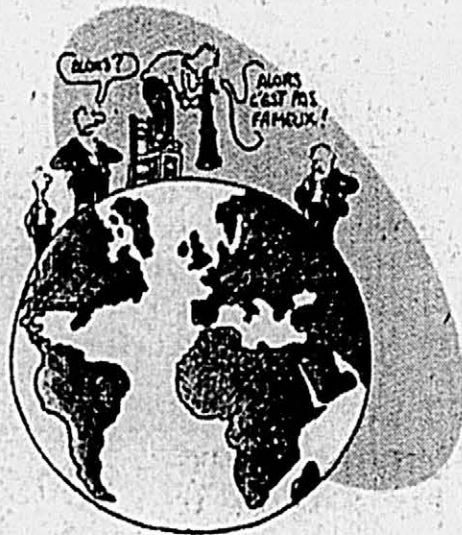
MR: I believe that the neoliberal agenda has cracks and flaws, and doesn't correspond to people's real lives. Also on the economic side of things, putting everything in the basket of competitiveness, means more and more inequality within countries and between countries.

More and more we are seeing also that the sections of people who have profited by this ideology are becoming concerned. There is some concern that it can't last, that maybe they've gone too far. I mean even Ralph Klein thinks maybe he's gone too far.

D: Lucien Bouchard's myth as the invincible leader was recently broken down. What is your assessment of the mood in Québec now? Do you think now is the time to act?

MR: I think it is. As you saw at the PQ convention, there is a definite break between the trade union movement and the government. And even

though Bouchard remains popular, there are cracks, especially around the zero deficit question, seeing it as unattainable even though the government hasn't backed down.



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Brief

101 DISNEY DAMNATIONS

Week of Action calls for fair jobs in Burma and Haiti

This holiday season, people across North America are planning to take a moment to stop and consider where the clothes they buy are made, and under what conditions.

In particular, people will be considering the conditions under which Mickey Mouse sweatshirts are manufactured during an international week of action against Walt Disney's contracting plants in Haiti, Thailand and Burma. The initiative is being organized by the New York City based National Labor Committee in Support of Worker and Human Rights in Central America to draw attention to workers' conditions.

"What we're hoping for is that Disney will finally realize that they do need to think about workers' rights around the world," says the committee's Network Coordinator Maggie Poe.

University students in Wisconsin and Washington will join nuns and other activists in dressing up like "big business" Mickey Mouse characters, protesting in front of Disney stores and leafletting outside of movie houses playing the mega-company's new release, *101 Dalmations*.

The demonstrators will be protesting the 28 cent/hour pay to workers hired by Disney contractors in Haiti, as well as the use of child labour in Disney contractor factories in Thailand.

Criticism of the company is also fueled by its financial involvement in Burma, where a ruthless military regime has violently repressed the pro-democracy movement.

Poe adds that the purpose of the campaign is not to encourage people to boycott Disney but to put pressure on the company to improve working conditions in its contracting plants. "There is space for consumer pressure without

boycotting," says Poe, adding that "those jobs need to stay in Haiti, but they need to be fair jobs."

Haitian workers and the Committee are pushing for a 58 cent/hour goal, an improvement of human rights and an open and safe dialogue between Disney representatives and Haitian employees.

So far, Disney President Michael Eisner has not responded to the information and request for dialogue sent to him by the Committee, according to Poe. Yet she remains hopeful.

The group spearheaded a

similar campaign last year against the Gap which owned a large factory in El Salvador. The Committee was able to secure an agreement from the company allowing for independent monitoring at the El Salvadoran factory that was the focus of the campaign, the first time such an arrangement has been made in the garment industry. Referring to the enormous amount of public pressure and mobilisation that led to that success, Poe says "If we can do it with the Gap, we can do it with Disney."

- Idella Sturino

letters

No CANDU

To the Daily,

Why should the Canadian taxpayer have to assume the financial responsibility of another one-and-a-half billion dollars in debt, so that China can afford to buy a CANDU reactor using our borrowings?

China has already defaulted on numerous international debts in recent years; what guarantee is there that the Canadian taxpayer won't be left holding the bag?

Why has there been no parliamentary or public debate? Do Canadians want their elected government to continue peddling nuclear technology? Has anyone asked?

By selling CANDU's overseas, Jean Chrétien is proping up a dangerous and uneconomic industry, one which has already received over \$13 billion in direct government subsidies. If those lavish gifts to the nuclear industry had been used to pay down the national debt instead, Canada's indebtedness today would be \$33 billion less than it is.

Every nuclear reactor produces plutonium as a

byproduct. It can be used any time in the next 10, 20, or 100,000 years, by any future regime, to build atomic bombs. Why is the Canadian government spreading plutonium around the world?

Even Ontario Hydro, with all its technological and financial resources, cannot afford to maintain all of its own CANDU reactors in a safe operating condition. Are we doing other countries a favour by selling them technology that they may not be able to afford to maintain?

Why is the Chrétien cabinet refusing to allow an environmental assessment for this project, even though Canadian law states that, with this level of government financing, such an environmental assessment is mandatory? Where is the transparency, the accountability, that was promised in the Liberals' Red Book? In nuclear policy matters, it is nowhere to be seen.

Gordon Edwards
President, Canadian Coalition
for Nuclear Responsibility

events events events events events events events events events events

Thursday, December 5

- LBGTM Womyn's Group meeting, Shatner 423. 18h30.
- Outreach to inmates information session. Sponsored by McGill Chaplaincy (3484 Peel), 14h-16h. Info: Gwenda Wells, 398-4104.
- Yellow Door presents Literature Live Evening, 20h. Admission \$3.

Friday, December 6

- Fondation des Victimes du 6 Décembre Contre la Violence is holding a commemorative service for the 14 women killed at the l'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989. Église St-Jean Baptiste (corner of Rachel and Drolet) 20h. \$10.
- LBGTM Coming Out Group potluck dinner. 19h. Info: 932-2538 or 932-5900.
- LBGTM Men's Discussion Group meeting. UTC basement (3521 University, near Milton) 19h.
- Playwrights' Workshop Montréal and Centre des auteurs dramatiques present I/She A Woman in 1996. Théâtre Aujourd'hui — 3888 St. Denis.

20h30.

- Yellow Door presents Daniel Maté and Sophie Noël, 20h. Admission \$3.

Saturday, December 7

- Jews for a Humanist Secular Tradition Gala Hanukah Party featuring The Bagg Street Klezmer Band, 18h-20h. Centre Greene (1090 Greene). \$8 singles, \$14 couples. Reservations: 484-5033.

Sunday, December 8

- Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue (4894 St. Kevin) Special Bazaar, 9h-17h.

Ongoing

- Head & Hands (2304 Old Orchard) needs donations of children's winter clothing and other items. Info: Gabriela, 482-7910 or 481-0277.
- The Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society offers a confidential listening Help Line, 398-8500, 18h-24h, 7 nights/week. Free support groups, information, referrals available. Info Line: 398-2700.

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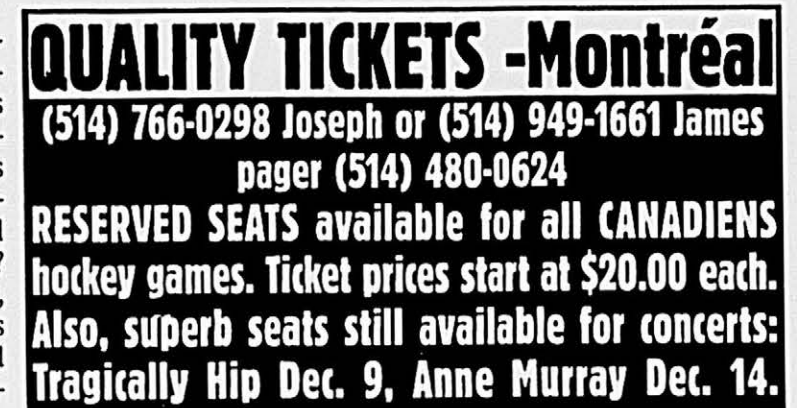
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AIDS: a symptom of inequality

SOCIETAL FACTORS AND HIGHER HIV INFECTION RATES AMONG WOMEN

by Jessica Howard

Why is AIDS the number one cause of death for women in Montréal between the ages of 20 and 49?

According to Montréal's AIDS experts, a sexist social and medical context increases the risk of HIV infection in women.

In a 1996 report, Québec's STD/AIDS Prevention and Control Programme found that 50% of female AIDS cases in Canada live in Québec, and 75% of these women live in downtown Montréal.

According to epidemiologist Catherine Hankins, "societal forces and gender-based power inequalities create the sexual subordination that puts women at risk."

She suggests that the economic disadvantages that many women experience might lead them into "sexual relationships for economic reasons", ranging from marriage to prostitution.

By resorting to such means, women may increase their exposure to HIV. In many cases, reports Hankins, "these survival strategies have turned into death strategies".

Joanna Broadhurst, a human relations agent working on the Women's AIDS Intervention Project at CLSC Métro corroborated the role of gender inequality in the transmission of HIV to heterosexual women.

"When the practice of safe sex requires the cooperation of both partners, women cannot always control whether the man wears a condom," she asserts.

Women have even less power to negotiate safer sex practices in abusive relationships or situations of sexual assault.

Safe sex practices may also be hindered by double standards concerning women and sexuality, according to Anna-Louise Crago, women studies student and safer sex educator.

"The minute a woman tries to take control of her sexuality, by saying 'I use condoms', for example, she is branded a slut," says

Crago.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

Many other social misconceptions surround the issue of women and AIDS, perpetuating the idea that certain groups are not at risk. The legacy of the notion that AIDS is a "gay man's" disease diverts atten-

tion away from the particular vulnerabilities of heterosexual women.

Broadhurst denounced the myth that condoms are unnecessary after marriage, because "women tend to be infected by their primary partners, as opposed to multiple partners."

The same is true for sex trade

workers, says Broadhurst. "Sex trade workers are more likely to be infected by their partners than clients," says Broadhurst.

This is thought to be because the vagina provides a larger mucosal surface area for HIV transmission than the penis, and because sperm can carry a higher concentration of viral inoculum than vaginal secretions.

Women are also more likely to have other untreated STDs which increases their susceptibility to HIV contraction.

But, even in the medical community, social factors can override biology. To Broadhurst, this can delay HIV diagnosis in women, often until the virus has developed into AIDS.

This has serious implications, considering that carriers can unknowingly transmit the virus during the ten years it may take to develop into AIDS.

NEW STEPS

Broadhurst proposes a more realistic outlook on AIDS education.

"We have to start looking at risk reduction models which recognise that women may not have equal power in relationships," says Broadhurst.

She also mentions that since the mean age of AIDS infection has dropped from 23 to 21, "supporting youth in developing self-esteem" is crucial, especially for women.

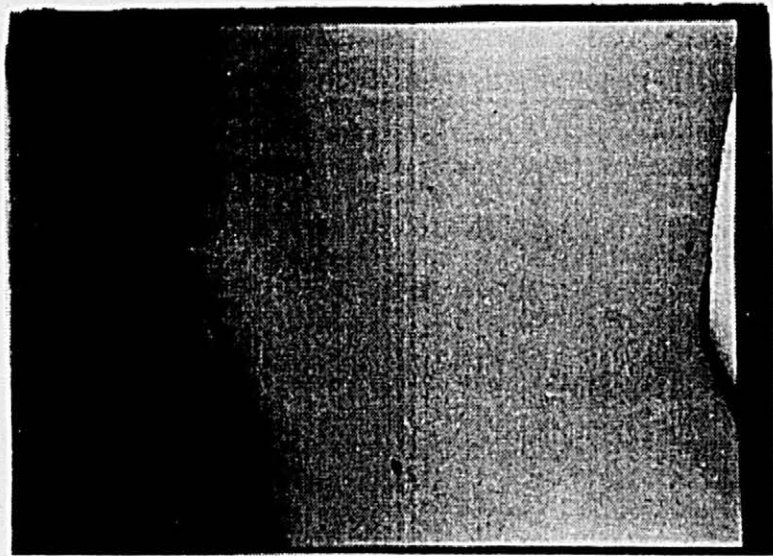
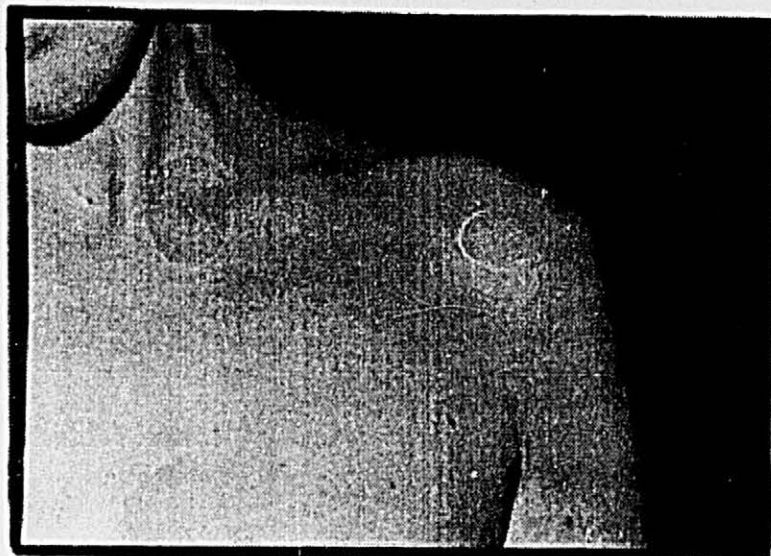
"The lower the self-esteem someone has, the less likely she is to insist on the use of condom," says Broadhurst.

To Anna-Louise Crago, the desexualisation and cultural bias of sex education weaken its effect. From her experience in educating youth on safer sex, she advocates "safer sex education must be sexy, relevant, and realistic."

All agree that education should be a priority, not only for the general public, but for physicians as well.

"Doctors are not properly trained to take sexual histories; they don't know what questions to ask... and sex is a difficult topic for everybody," says Dr. Tellier. "We need to do more about skills, in small groups, [to] explore our anxieties about AIDS."

He adds that patients need to "learn how to advocate for themselves," so as not to let doctors discourage them from being tested.



DAILY PHOTO BY CAMERON BOOTH

Note from Below

The Daily would like to thank the Academy, all the other volunteers who have contributed to the paper this year and, of course, our fans without whom we wouldn't exist.

Hope to see you all today at 15h30 in Shatner B-03 for our staff meeting of the week.

And don't forget to join us again after the break, on January 9 at 16h, for the first staff meeting of the semester.

Comment

Making ourselves the body electric

Ever since the '50s, when machines started filling in for humans, technology has been hailed as the solution to all of our inefficiencies. Countering this perception are those who fail to see technology as a potential vehicle to promote social change, ("Net Activism," page 20). Regardless of what people think, technology has entered the realm of pop culture, entertainment and even education ("Technifying education," page 14). One of the only certainties is that technology will continue to have a profound impact on the way we live our lives, creating new problems as well as tools to solve old ones.

At the same time, technology is perceived as being out of people's grasp, because despite its pervasive nature, in a lot of ways the role it plays is so intangible. Technology has come to mean different things to different people. For some, the technological revolution has translated into job loss, poverty and unequal access and opportunities ("C-3PO takes over," page 25 and "Access Denied," page 21). For others, the debate is more

academic, involving issues of censorship and ownership of the internet ("The bits behind the buzz", pages 12-13).

What often gets sidestepped in the rhetoric, is the fact that technology alone cannot address the underlying inequalities that exist in society, nor does it change the attitudes which support them. Although the internet, for example, transgresses national and political borders, it doesn't mean that it will ever be accessible to most people in the world. And within countries where it is widely available, hate on the net reveals that it can do as much harm as good.

The motivation behind doing a special issue on technology lies in all of these issues, and many more we weren't able to address in these pages. The intention was to allow for a moment of pause: to stop and think about the role technology plays in our everyday lives, in how we think of ourselves, in the direction of our society and in the solutions we apply to old and new problems.

— Idella Sturino and Sonia Verma

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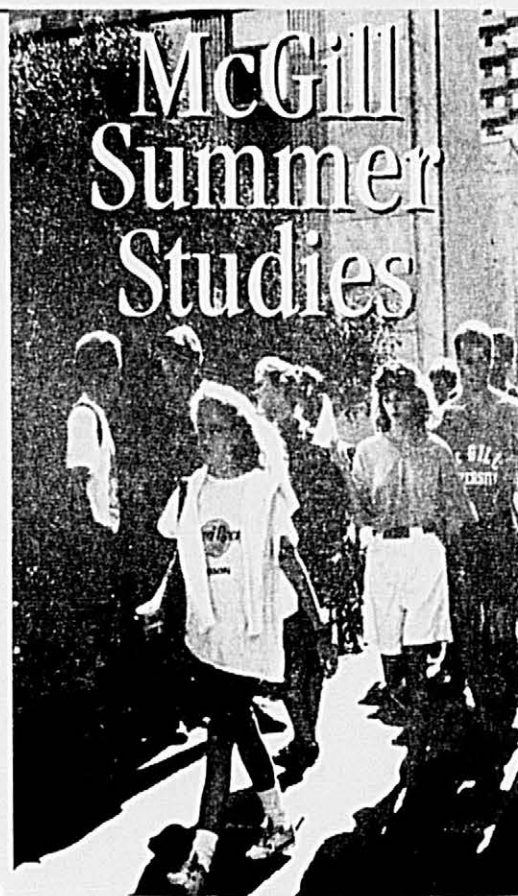
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DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST ATE?

Government favours profits over public safety

by Andrea Mason

The Canadian government is allowing harmful pesticides and dangerous growth hormones to slip into the market unchecked at the expense of public health.

The registration process at the Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency (a division of the Ministry of Health), "amounts to nothing but a rubber stamp," insists Julia Langer of the World Wildlife Fund in Toronto. "Everything gets registered."

"So much is being rammed through it's almost impossible to keep track," agrees Peter Bleyer, of the Council of Canadians.

That means that potentially harmful chemicals are slipping through government red tape and onto people's plates, and what's worse, consumers might not even know. The pesticide certification process is "designed to obscure itself from public criticism, input and oversight," comments Bleyer.

What explains this lack of regulation and accountability? The government has bowed to pressure exerted by wealthy, powerful pesticide companies who oppose the strict regulation of their products, explain people like Janet May of the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

"When push comes to shove, this government protects chemical companies' profits. It doesn't care about the average Canadian," she says.

As a result, the public remains unaware — and unprotected from — the dangers associated with the 6 000 pesticide products currently registered in Canada.

"People see that a product is registered by Health Canada and automatically assume that it's safe," says Laurie King of Alternatives, a health food store in Oakville, Ontario.

In fact, contact with pesticides has been linked to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, birth defects, leukemia, brain cancer and neurological problems.

May describes one type of pesticide, known as diazinon, whose effects can be particularly destructive. Developed from the same nerve gas used in World War II, it kills insects by destroying their nervous systems and also affects muscle co-ordination in humans.

King says there is no proof that growth hormones are safe either. "No one knows what they will do to people or animals. There have been no tests, especially over the long term," she notes.

But Bleyer contends that there is a lot of evidence showing that growth hormones are clearly unsafe.

Growth hormones increase cows' capacity to produce milk, placing a heavy burden on the animals which can lead to the deterioration of their immune systems.

Hormone treatments have also been linked to problems such as twin calving, stillborns and genetic mutations. "When you use growth hormones, such as Bovine, you're playing with what nature intended," Bleyer explains.

"Growth hormones increase the necessity for herd management, so more drugs are needed to keep the cattle healthy and it all ends up in the milk stream," explains King.

Bleyer puts it more bluntly, "Sick cows equal sick milk. There is serious potential for human health impact here."

The benefits are nowhere near enough to counter the risks, he concludes. "There are no benefits. There is enough milk in this country. On this road only one or two transnational companies stand to benefit."

So what are these products doing on the market?

The federal government gives such chemically altered products their seal of approval based on testing done by the industry which is manufactur-



DAILY PHOTO BY LUCY ATKINSON

ing and selling them. And the result is often shocking negligence.

"The government turns a blind eye. They have no idea about the problems," declares Meryl Hammond of the Montréal based group, Citizens for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAP).

Hammond cites the case of imazethapyr, a herbicide used on soy beans. No occupational exposure study was ever conducted on the product. Instead, the company submitted a surrogate study for a different herbicide.

According to Hammond, 13 farmers were exposed to the other chemical for only four to seven hours. Health Canada accepted the study because two herbicides were deemed chemically similar, even though the breakdown process is different in the human body.

"This is not just a single lapse, and cannot be overlooked," maintains Hammond. "Health Canada consistently errs on the side of wishful thinking, not reality, and it's a bloody crime."

Or maybe they just err on the side of money and influence.

"The chemical industry is so powerful, it's like dealing with the arms or nuclear industry. They can buy-out any government official and I can only assume they got the boys at the top," says Hammond.

Once when talking to a Health Canada Official, Hammond was told, "the trouble with you people is you don't understand how we do business around here and you're treading on thin ice."

CAP has also encountered resistance in its attempts to regulate the use of pesticides in residential sector.

"The lawn care industry has waged a very aggressive public relations campaign," explains Hammond.

"They tell people their lives won't be complete until they have a perfect, weed-free green lawn — that they're not good citizens, their neighbours will hate them, their property values will go down... And people buy into it so we have to sit down one on one and show them how to look after their lawns without chemicals," she says.

Success has been gradual, but more and more municipalities are now starting to take steps to regulate the use of pesticides.

In 1991, Hudson, a small municipality an hour Northwest of Montréal, implemented a ban on the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes like lawns.

In Baie d'Urfé, a bylaw placing seasonal, hour and day restrictions on the use of pesticides has also been instated. And in Beaconsfield, residents are now required to apply for a permit for pesticide use. Along with the permit, applicants also receive information about alternative solutions.

"We have found a combination of legislation and education to be the powerful," says Hammond.

While some people may question the amount of work required to get such regulations passed, Hammond says she has no doubt the effort is worth it.

"There is no justification for the use of pesticides in residential areas where the most vulnerable people — children, pregnant women and the elderly — are put at risk," she says.

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The bits behind

*How the internet really works, where it's going
and who will profit*

by Finn Hakala

By now you've had internet buzzwords like "information superhighway" crammed down your throat some umpteen million times, and you may have heard the hype on the so-called "browser wars", about which multi-national software mogul (Netscape's "Navigator" or Microsoft's "Internet Explorer") will gouge the most users for their "access to information."

But even with all this noise, one question which still boggles the 'net savvy is: How does the internet actually work — and who runs it? More importantly, who will be running it down the road? Knowing the new technology is the only guide to guessing the future of the 'net's structure.

Not-so-lofty origins

The internet as we know it today is the result of many distinct stages of development, punctuated by a couple of giant technological leaps. Your professor would probably call them "paradigm shifts."

As has been commonly observed, the internet started as a joint effort between the American military and the computer science departments of several universities. In 1966, Bob Taylor was working for the Department of Defense's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) when he came up with the idea of stringing a series of computers together to lower the cost of accessing large research databases. His bosses at ARPA saw the potential in the project and put forward U.S. \$1 million towards research and development. Larry Roberts, a network pioneer working for the Michigan Institute of Technology (MIT) Lincoln Laboratory was considered the only scientist in the country who could put the network together, and was lured over to ARPA in 1967. What he conceived would later turn into the Arpanet, which evolved into the internet in the 1980's. Roberts designed the very first four node network, which used packet-switching instead of circuit switching.

There are two inherent problems with circuit switching. First, if the circuit is broken, the call is interrupted; second there is very little control over line traffic, which can result in endless busy signals.

Packet switching, on the other hand, is the principal behind TCP/IP, the protocol that still runs the 'net today. The original plan was to develop a communications network that would withstand nuclear attack by rerouting information around severed telephone lines.

It works on the principal of breaking information up into "packets", kind of like the envelope that you stuff your email into. But even a two page email can be divided into many packets, and it is unlikely that any two packets take the exact same

route. This way, the data stream "flows" around any lines that are either down or packed to capacity. The packet switching scheme and its protocol worked fine, up until now that is.

new wave net tech

The first problem lies in the IP protocol. Every internet address has to be unique just like postal addresses, otherwise your information won't be going to the right person (imagine what would happen if your grandma got your email!). These addresses are 32 bit (a string of 32 zeros and ones), which allows for literally millions of addresses. So, massive blocks of addresses were handed out left and right, to universities, corporations, and government organisations. There is a finite number of combinations in a 32-bit string, and now they're running out. The Internet Advisory Board attempted to solve the problem, got nowhere, and passed the buck to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). The IETF has no restrictions on who can join, which means it is populated by underground hackers and big business representatives, as well as a bunch of legitimate innovators bent on pragmatically solving the problems at hand.

This is typical of the anarchistic net-culture. There is no single authority that governs it. The problem with a group that has no finite membership and no refined political structure is that the best they can come to is a rough consensus. This means that the ideas most likely to be accepted are the ones that step on the least toes. Result? A band-aid solution. The new protocol, dubbed IPNG, is already beginning to take effect, and should be the new internet standard by the end of the year.

So what does the new wave look like?

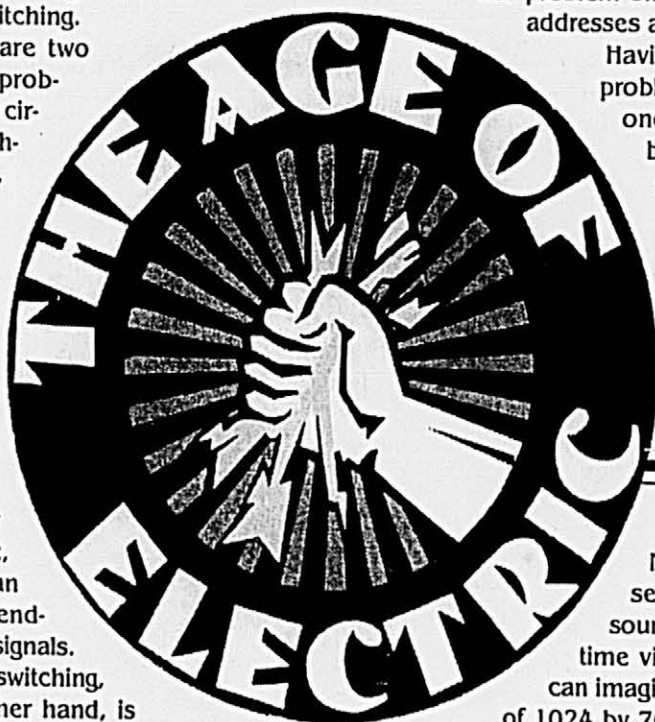
They have changed the 32 bit address system to 128 bits. This, however, does not address the issue of exponential user growth, and only puts the problem off a few years until they run out of addresses again.

Having temporarily solved the address problem, we come to an even bigger one: bandwidth. Simply speaking, bandwidth means how much information can be crammed through the wires at one time. Bandwidth has improved with the advent of digital lines, and fiber-optic technology is a promising future data medium. But http and its platform, the World Wide Web, has changed our views of what kind

of information we want to send. No longer are users satisfied with sending email or small files. We want sounds, we want pictures, we want real-time video, and we want it *now*! As you can imagine, when you code video pictures of 1024 by 768 pixels, in 16 million colors, at 24 frames a second, you're talking about a much bigger string of ones and zeros than a two page email. So it turns out that internet gurus are trying to find a faster solution than packet-switching. They're not the only ones interested though.

Internet Inc.

The internet seemed like a good deal to the phone companies in the early days, back when they



the buzz

were renting lines to a "just a bunch of researchers and university students." Now their cash cow mainstay is under siege. Phone companies make their money by charging people by the minute to talk on the phone. Now, voice communication is just another form of data that can be sent along the Internet.

Don't think for a second that they're not worried. Their pie has grown stale, and you can bet they want a fresh slice. MCI and Sprint are increasingly involved in the evolution of the net, and they're recruiting the brain-power to do it. MCI recently hired Vint Cerf, a respected member of the Internet community since its inception and president of the Internet Society, as vice-president for data architecture.

Recently, BellHeads are pushing Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM), designed by researchers at Bellcore and Cambridge University to simultaneously handle voice and data traffic over the same network. ATM divides the information into cells. Because the cells are exactly equal in length, there is no chance that a short cell will get caught behind a longer and slower data cell. Theoretically, uniform packets allow for simpler, and therefore faster, switching at the routers. It all seems fine and dandy, right? Enter the NetHeads.

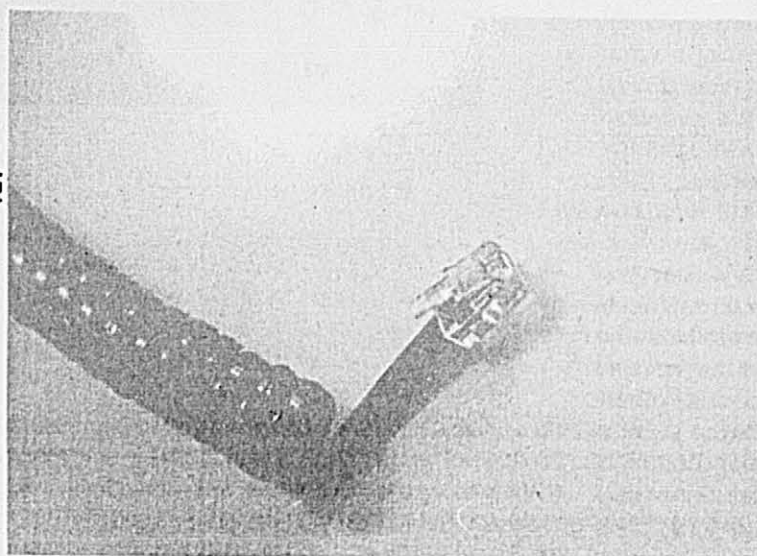
NetHeads speculate that if the phone companies are left in charge of designing the router software and packet switching hardware, they can start tracking which cells are going across which lines. Now, if the phone companies know what line you are using, and for how long, what do you think the chances are they'll charge you for it? Try 100%.

Our idea of uniformly accessible information, and the Internet providing a kind of educational equality based on anarchy and freedom of speech goes out the window. We're back at square one, except worse. Not only are the phone companies back to charging you for your phone calls, they're charging for everything else, email, telnet, Web site access, you name it.

We're now at the point where the Internet allows us to access any data anytime, at low cost. The only way to keep it that way is to keep the structure of the Internet loose and autonomous from big business.

This is extremely unlikely, because of the enormous cost to research and develop new technology in a field that is already extraordinarily complex. Universities may help in the research department, but the actual application is another story. And unless you have a PhD in computer engineering, there's very little you can do about it, except voice your discontent.

But that's what the Internet is about, isn't it? The uncensored expression of opinion.



Geek Speak

ATM: Suggested new protocol for sending uniform 48 byte packets over the Internet.

HTTP: Hyper Text Transport Protocol. The protocol governing the transfer of information over the World Wide Web.

BELLHEAD: Any person whose sympathies lie with the telephone companies in regards to Internet communication.

IP: Internet Protocol

ISP: Internet Service Provider. Either DAS or musicb for most McGill students.x

IPNG: Internet Protocol the Next Generation, or IP with 128 bit addresses.

NETHEAD: Member of the Internet community. Generally anti-regulatory, pro-privacy, pro-freedom-of-speech.

TCP/IP: Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. The set of logical rules governing the transfer of packets of information across the Internet. IP addresses have 32 bits. Each envelope starts with a string of 32 ones and zeros that identify the unique address of the computer that you are sending your message to. When you send any form of data, your ISP breaks it up into a bunch of these packets; it then sends the packets through a series of routers. A router is a super fast computer that is linked to the big digital lines that phone companies like Sprint and MCI have set up as the backbone of the Internet. It "asks" all the other routers it's linked to which route is the fastest (i.e. has the least traffic) to the destination computer at that particular second, and sends the packet.

CIRCUIT SWITCHING: The method Bell Canada has been using to "reach out and touch someone" since the 1930's. It involves making a complete circuit between the point of origin and the phone on the other end of the call, allowing the company to accurately time how long you have used what line and what they can charge you for it.

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by Derek Fung

First and foremost, I am a technocrat, a member of the digerati and worse, probably a bit of a techno-elitist. Still, I firmly believe that technology is useful only if used appropriately. So when I was approached to write an article about education and the internet, I was quite pleased.

The internet has always seemed an integral part of my education and the expansion of my horizons. To me, it is a vital, if not necessary tool to learning. But the question that remains is whether this experience is common.

So what did I do to answer this question? Surf the 'net of course. In my travels I found several things of interest. In Canada, I found an answer in SchoolNet (<http://www.schoolnet.ca>). Based out of Industry Canada, SchoolNet is a project to wire every single school to the internet in the hopes to "enhance educational opportunities by making national and international resources available to (elementary and secondary schools)." The initial project was to wire 300 schools to the 'net. Apparently, this was so successful that the Canadian government wants to wire all 17,000 schools, 200 First Nations' Schools and 3,400 libraries across the country.

In total, the SchoolNet service provides a web site, an ftp site to download educational shareware, freeware and more; three different gophers for English, French, and French with accents with over 6,000 files; a listserv to keep people in touch and to set up projects between schools; newsgroups to encourage communications and a "multi-user simulated environment" to allow real-time chatting in English and French. These services puts Canada far ahead of most other countries and is now a model for similar projects around the world.

The projects are one part of SchoolNet that I found very interesting. They use the internet to allow classrooms across the country and world to work together. They range from science simulation to question and answer sessions between classrooms. Teachers and students are encouraged to create and use these projects to give students the chance to interact with other students and use the internet as a tool for research.

For example, there are creative projects about what life would be like on Mars; mystery projects where students have to do some inventive thinking and researching and many more.

More than just projects, the driving force behind SchoolNet is summed up in a document titled "The Contribution of New Technologies to Learning and Teaching in Elementary and Secondary Schools"

by Robert Bracewell and Thérèse Laferrière. They write that "where new technologies play an important role, teachers begin to view knowledge less and less as a series of facts to be transferred and more and more as a process of continuous research in which they share the difficulties and results with their students." Beyond that, "the new technologies foster a positive, close association of students with the assessment of their own learning."

This means that there is a pedagogical potential in the use of these new technologies. Many times, there are kids who already have experience on the 'net and they share their experience with others as "peer helpers." Ethel Thayer, an educational consultant in Ontario, comments that "(peer helpers assist) their classmates and teachers in accessing the power of the Information Highway. This is a wonderful shift — the student as expert in the classroom. The teacher's role is (also) shifting (to) a balance between teaching and learning."

Not only connecting classrooms, but connecting students though remote learning. Thayer also told me about a little girl who had leukemia. Normally she would be out of school and terribly behind after recovering. But, thanks to teleconferencing, she participated in class lessons with the rest of her peers. Proudly, Thayer finished that "Now she is back in school with no peer issues and is at the same level in her learning as her classmates."

Sounds good so far...

Fascinated by the depth and breadth of the program, I still had some unanswered questions about the logistics of the entire operation. So I called up the SchoolNet head office and was quickly transferred to Wendy Zatylny, Communications Officer, Manager at SchoolNet, Industry Canada, who quickly gave me the details. Currently, 7,500 schools are connected to the internet. By 1998, every single school will be wired to the 'net, making Canada the first nation in the world to do so. To date, the federal government has put in \$42 million dollars to create the infrastructure. But, the schools are responsible for connecting to SchoolNet and not vice versa. On top of all this, the schools must provide all the computers and must get an internet account established before it can connect to SchoolNet.

To help fulfill these needs, SchoolNet has programmes such as *Network to Savings* and *Community Access Programs*. The *Network to Savings* programme provides special discounts on computer hardware and software to schools. The *Community Access Programs* allows schools that aren't connected to apply for \$30,000 to help get them online. This has helped many schools in rural areas to buy the necessary equipment and has allowed them to participate in the project.

Although there are programmes that help schools, this does not change the fact that there are massive cuts taking place in education budgets across the country. My fear is that connecting schools to the internet will in some way justify

these cuts. University of Toronto science Professor Ursula Franklin said it best in a CBC Massey Lecture when she stated: "Many technological systems are basically anti-people. People are seen as sources of problems while technology is seen as a source of solutions. When students are seen as not sufficiently competent, it is likely to be computers that the school purchases rather than extra teachers' time and extra human help."

The Ontario Royal Commission on Learning also stated that "we are not suggesting that technology is automatic good in the learning process. We acknowledge that machines must be at the service of humankind — not the reverse."

It is very easy in our technological society to see computers as a panacea. With the cuts to teachers' salaries and school resources, people naturally turn to computers. But this is the wrong way to compensate for the cuts. Education should be the last thing cut in any budget. If the Canadian federal and provincial governments keep cutting funds to education, then we will only see the degradation of the intellectual and creative potential of this



country. Take Ontario as an example. With Mike Harris at the helm, the provincial government has slashed the education budget by half a billion dollars. By 1997, these cuts are going to total \$1.2 billion, according to John Campey and Tam Goossen, Toronto school trustees. No matter how you cut it, these cuts are going to hurt the kids.

Also, in the drive to technify schools, many of the higher-ups forget that computers cost a hell of a lot of money too. Even with discounts, when you add up the tally for networking hardware, maintenance costs and upgrades, the bill becomes huge. Marita Moll, Head of Research and Technology at the Canadian Teachers' Federation points out that "if this plan (of connecting all the schools) is implemented it could quickly do more damage than good — leaching resources from an already financially strapped system, pulling the rug out from under those on whom our children depend most heavily in the school system — the teachers."

Beyond all of this, what is most important is that we need to balance the available resources. Computers need to be

purchased, but not at the expense of other resources, be they human or material.

While provincial governments are taking money away from schools, corporations are making modest donations. SchoolNet receives contributions from the likes of Apple Canada Inc., the *Globe and Mail*, Southam News, the Stentor Alliance, Unitel Communications, Bell Canada and other telecommunication companies on top of many more. At the same time, many of the corporations that donate money also sit on the Advisory Board of SchoolNet, created to control the direction of the project.

Perhaps we need to question the direction of a project where large corporations such as telecommunications companies and cable television companies have so much control. With its four year mandate soon to expire, a new direction for SchoolNet needs to be determined. Will this be the corporate direction?

An alternative plan

In the U.S., a different type of project is taking place. Called NetDay96 (<http://www.netday96.org>) it is the brainchild of former Berkeley hell raiser and current director of the Science Office at Sun Microsystems, John Gage. This program is trying to wire schools in the U.S. and around the world, but is based completely on volunteers. On the NetDay96 web site hourly tallies of volunteers, sponsors and organizers are maintained. When I last checked there were 27,408 volunteers across the States.

Basically, NetDay96 works like this: anyone can volunteer to help out. You sign up and find a school in your area that needs assistance or volunteer at your child's school. The school is responsible for buying the computers and the wiring kits to hook up the school, but a lot of times, a school is sponsored by a local business, corporation or even concerned parents and teachers. The volunteer's job is to network the computers together and to the internet.

The NetDay site comes complete with installation guides and how to buy wiring kits. According to the site, "NetDay96 kits contain the materials required for a minimal installation for each of five classrooms and a computer lab or library. Through volume buying and a variety of funding

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NetDay96

WIRING Generation-E ? EDUCATION

strategies, we've kept kit prices below \$400." The NetDay project has also set up a market place to help schools find



media in the classroom has a great potential to enhance the learning experience, but when a corporation designs course material, regardless of whether it is approved by the department of education, it can help but be slanted and narrow.

special discounts for internet accounts, hardware and software.

Besides depending on volunteers, NetDay depends on corporate sponsorships and donations. Here corporations are providing the means of wiring schools but not dictating the direction of the project. They simply offer discounted prices on things such as computers, hardware, and cabling for schools.

For NetDay, things seem to be moving quite well. Their progress map shows that almost every single state is organised or has contacts, except for Vermont. But unlike SchoolNet, NetDay is only concerned with wiring schools to the internet. It does not provide educational services or programs over the 'net. How valuable is it to wire schools to the 'net without providing meaningful tools and devices for them to use?

Loyal customers or students?

To fill the gap of educational resources, another organisation, the Global School-

house (<http://www.gsh.org>), has stepped up to the mic in the U.S. Sadly though, this "non-profit" organisation seems to be nothing more than a front for the Microsoft Corporation. The site is full of "free" advertising for Microsoft and tries to push Microsoft educational titles on to educators.

Hoping to get more than just the hype, I emailed them to get more detailed information about logistics and the degree of Microsoft's involvement. The response from Heidi Johnson, of the Microsoft Corporation (her email address was from microsoft.com even though I emailed the Global Schoolhouse information address) was less than stimulating. Johnson spin doctored that "the mission of the Global Schoolhouse is to 'harness the power of the Internet to provide ongoing opportunities to support learners both in and outside of the school environment.' Microsoft has



joined forces with the Global SchoolNet Foundation and several other organizations in a focused effort to bring the very best educational resources to students, educators, parents and the extended community."

In a similar way to SchoolNet, the Global SchoolHouse offers classroom projects, free web sites for schools and, of course, software. But the software is mainly all Microsoft-made aimed at kindergarten through grade 12 schools for exclusive use on the Windows'95 operating system. This could undoubtedly be seen as a ploy by Microsoft to take a bite of the educational market that Apple Computers has previously controlled. This is conjecture, but it seems Microsoft is banking on parents buying what their kids use at school so they can do their work at home. Microsoft seems to have no shame about advertising to the "captive audience" of students.

When trying to find redeeming qualities in this programme, I went to see the

featured "21st Century Schools" that showcase the 'net in schools. To my surprise, both schools featured were in Washington State, not far from Redmond, headquarters of the Microsoft Corporation.

It would seem that I am not the only person to see this link. Moll, at the INET'96 conference last year in Montréal, said that "there is plenty of direct evidence that the enormous marketing potential that the education sector represents is not being ignored. The rush to establish a foothold inside the schools is well underway."

That's not to say that all is bad, simply that we need to consider what function information technology is to serve in the classroom. As the Federation of Women Teachers Association of Ontario says: "Our business is student learning — not creating product loyalty."

Microsoft is not the only predator. Apple has been heavily involved in the education sector for many years. David Livingstone wrote about a project at a school named River Oaks in Oakville,



Ontario. Termed a lighthouse school, featuring state of the art technology, it has been marketed nationally and internationally. Even more interesting is the fact that this showcase of Apple's latest computer products and services is also located in one of the richest census areas of Canada.

No one is safe

Microsoft isn't just hungry for the U.S. market, but is setting up shop in Canada as well. According to the Canadian Teachers' Federation Web Site (<http://www.ctf-fce.ca>), New Brunswick is the Canadian test site for Microsoft's take over of the educational world, where it is developing and marketing courses that use its operating system. These courses have to be approved by the provincial department of education and users will be charged a fee for their use.

If this doesn't scare you, I don't know what will. Multimedia in the classroom has a great potential to enhance the learning experience, but when a major corporation designs the course material, regardless of whether it is approved by the department of education, it can not help but be slanted and narrow. What happened to the days when education was about diversity? Currently, technology's use as a didactic tool seems to be part of a larger agenda to replace teachers with computers that is all the craze in deficit-slashing, penny-pinching countries (read: the U.S. and Canada).

What's it worth?

Even though I am a technocrat, I find the educational value of the 'net to be rather questionable these days. Beyond just trying to take over schools, à la Microsoft and Apple, companies have already taken over the 'net. Most major sites are corporate sites. What this all boils down to is, is education about customers or learners?

The effects of corporations

aren't just felt at their sites. Everywhere on the 'net are those damn banner ads. Hunter Madsen, vice president of commercial strategy at HotWired, the web version of *Wired* magazine says that "total 1996 ad spending probably will not exceed \$300 million." Still that is nothing to sniff at.

WebTrack, a New York agency that watches ad spending says that "Web ad spending in the second quarter of 1996 was about U.S.\$43 million, a 347% increase over fourth quarter of 1995." What that means is that kids are going to be bombarded with advertising while searching for meaningful content. While it can be argued that most sites frequented by kids might not have huge ads, in the process of getting to those sites, search engines can do more than their share of advertising.

On the other hand, maybe we expect too little from our kids. Maybe the media blitz, instead of infecting young, innocent minds, will make them more aware and critical of advertising. After all, I know I tune out all the ads while I'm surfing. Who knows, perhaps this is part of the process which will make the next generation of surfers immune to the hype.

The value of the internet, though, is not just the content, but the process. The way I have been schooled, even in university, is through memorisation. But memorisation is not enough these days. Thayer points out that "knowledge is doubling at a furious rate, so we can no longer teach kids everything they need to know. What we must do is make sure they have the skills to find out what they need to know."

Computers and the internet are invaluable in this knowledge based society and provide the means for everyone to have access to the same wealth of knowledge that in the past has been inaccessible. There are still barriers, though. The problem now is "leveling the playing fields." Wiring all schools and libraries is a step, but not the end of the process.

There is still much work to be done. We need to make sure that all children, regardless of economic backgrounds, have access to the internet for their studies. We need more corporations to contribute money to these endeavors, without heavily dictating corporate directions. We need more public consultations so that the development of this project and others are not directed by information technology corporations. Even more importantly, we need to give kids the power and the tools to answer the why's and how's. And we have to be careful that giving younger people the tools to explore, create and express themselves is the goal of these projects, not creating loyal customers.

What better way to begin to fill their insatiable curiosity and make them hungry for more?

While provincial governments are taking money away from schools, corporations are making modest donations. SchoolNet receives contributions from the likes of Apple Canada Inc., the Globe and Mail, Southam News, and Bell Canada

Making laws on making babies

by Idella Sturino

This morning, members of the Standing Committee on the Human Reproductive and Genetic Technologies Act, or Bill C-47 will meet to discuss how to proceed.

Bill C-47 is the government's long-awaited legislative response to the report by the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies. The 1993 report, which came after two years and \$29 million worth of research, hearings and study, recommended a series of regulations and prohibitions around reproductive and genetic technologies (NRGTs).

According to Committee Clerk Pierre Rodrigue, a sub-committee which was formed to study the proposed Bill will be deciding when to conduct public hearings on it. When the hearings begin (probably in January), the Committee will have a lot on its hands. Since the Bill's introduction this past summer, many organisations — women's groups in particular — have issued responses and will likely be requesting to speak as witnesses to the Committee.

For some of these groups, the hearings may be their last chance to recommend changes to the proposed legislation before it returns to parliament. And for many, there's too much at stake not to try.

Not satisfied

Although many women's groups had lobbied for the appointment of the Royal Commission in order to review the unregulated use and proliferation of NRGTs, they found its research process, as well as the final report disappointing.

One criticism was that the report missed the mark on the eugenic implications of now common-place procedures like pre-natal diagnosis (PND).

According to some, Bill C-47 is equally off-target.

"From the perspective of a woman with disabilities... much like the Royal Commission report, the Bill did not touch on an issue important to women with disabilities: the eugenic component of NRGTs as a whole," says Maria Barile of Action des femmes handicapées, a Montréal organisation by and for women with disabilities.

"There's a right-wing movement going on right now promoting the idea of killing people with disabilities. For the last 10 years, we've been trying to get the Canadian government to respond to that call," Barile adds.

The proposed Bill C-47, which has already been through two readings in parliament and awaits a third reading pending the Standing Committee's recommendations, prohibits a total of 23 acts related to zygote, embryo and ovum manipulation, fertilization and alteration as well as commercial transactions related to surrogate motherhood and sperm do-

nation, to name only a few. It also prohibits one of most controversial forms of pre-natal diagnosis, namely procedures used for ascertaining the sex or for sex-selection for non-medical reasons.

Monique Charron, a senior policy analyst at Health Canada, recognises that the prohibition of PND procedures for sex-selection may not be seen by some women's or disabled rights groups as going far enough. "But," she says, "on the other end of the spectrum there are groups saying we went too far."

One such group is the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL), which issued a response to the proposed legislation in October. In it, the pro-choice lobby group rejected the criminalisation of reproductive technologies, including PND for sex-selection. The group maintained that bringing women's reproductive choices into the legislative realm may prove to be a slippery slope leading to the criminalisation of abortion.

Reproductive technologies, according to the document, are better left to the medical community's regulatory framework, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

As well, says CARAL's executive director Marcia Gilbert, the provision may lead to women having to defend why they want an abortion. "We want to make sure women aren't put in a position where they have to come up with reasons or excuses (for having an abortion)," says Gilbert.

Criminalisation may harm women

CARAL isn't the only group which disagrees with the inclusion of sex-selection procedures in the Bill. Other women's groups see a need for the regulation of PND procedures but maintain that the criminal code is not the appropriate framework.

Fiona Miller, a graduate student at York University and member of the Feminist Alliance on New Reproductive and Genetic Technologies, says she is concerned that the criminalisation of certain reproductive activities will be used against women. "Those women are not criminals," she adds.

Pointing to the preference for male children that leads some women in South-Asian communities, for example, to seek diagnostic procedures for sex-selection, Miller says the Bill may be applied in a racist way.

In a written response to the Bill, the Feminist Alliance also points out that while sex-selection is prohibited, "other forms of eugenic selection are not," adding that any distinction between sex-selection for medical and non-medical purposes is a racist one.

The Alliance proposes removing some

of the prohibitions in the Bill and placing them under a regulatory framework, currently being developed by Health Canada.

The regulatory body is the final stage in the government's response to the Royal Commission's report, as outlined in a discussion paper entitled *Setting Boundaries, Enhancing Health*. The arms-length body would report to Health Canada and be responsible for, among other things, the collection and distribution of human reproductive materials, as well as research and licensing for acceptable practices such as in-vitro fertilization (IVF).

While most women's groups commend the initiative to set up an arms-length regulatory body, they remain suspicious about the its mandate.

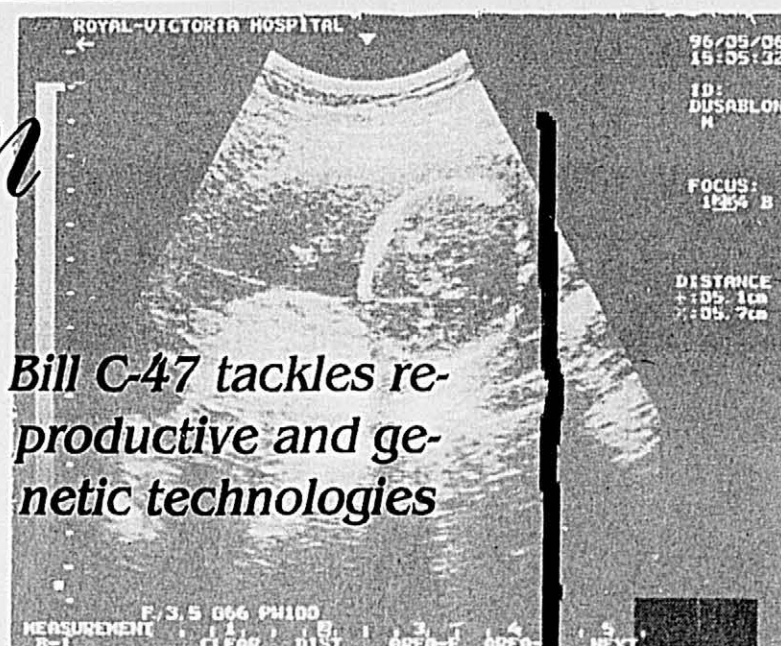
"We feel the overemphasis on the licensing aspects creates an expectation on an 'enabling' framework rather than one of control," reads a response to the Bill submitted by the Winnipeg Women's Health Clinic, a non-profit community health centre which has been active in the debate and research around NRGTs.

Groups like the Winnipeg Women's Health Centre are placing a lot of stake in the regulatory body, although they criticise the vague mandate assigned to it so far. Given that NRGT services are provided across the country with virtually no regulation (the only government action to date other than the Bill was the call for a voluntary moratorium on nine NRGTs in July, 1995), they are anxious for a comprehensive framework to stem the rapid accretion to their use.

More than just a law

Legislative-speak aside, the issue of criminalising and regulating new reproductive and genetic technologies is not an irrelevant one. Women's groups contend that the implications of the use of NRGTs do not simply bear upon the women directly affected by them, but upon all women and society as a whole, and have been working toward some kind of regulatory system for years. After all, the question of sex-selection or other forms of pre-natal diagnosis is really a question of who we want to bring into the world, and who we don't.

For this reason, women's groups have been working toward a public discourse and debate about what role society wants NRGTs to play. That debate was supposed to be facilitated by the Royal Commission, but wasn't. If a societal consensus is to be reached about what role technology should play in the process of how we bring life into this world — or chose not to — the coming months of consultation about proposed Bill C-47 will have to prove more fruitful than the past.



ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL OB-GYN ULTRASOUND REPORT

REAL AND IMAGINARY making bodies that sell WOMEN

by Sonia Verma

Technology has revolutionised image production in the advertising industry to the point where women have become cosmetically engineered. But its not just the power of technology at play when it comes to the portrayal of women in the media — its also the power of those involved of producing and determining the images.

Technology and its influence on the portrayal of women media is a double-edged sword. But some argue, if it is demystified and understood as accessible, it can be used to subvert and redefine the images which surround us.

Katherine Dodds, a film-maker and associate editor and columnist for *Adbusters* magazine cites a series of "uncommercials" which she recently directed with the support of The Media Foundation — the non-profit organisation which publishes *Adbusters*. The anti-ads are tentatively slated to run on CityTV's Fashion Television to coincide with Eating Disorders Awareness Week this February. In producing the ads, Dodds relied on the same technology used to manufacture the Calvin Klein ad which it attempts to undermine.

One of the sequences features a Kate Moss look alike lounging passively on a couch with her gaze submissively lowered. But unlike the ad which Calvin Klein had to pull when they bowed to consumer protest over the image, the final frame of the uncommercial consists of Kate glaring accusingly into the camera. The message "The Beauty Industry is the Beast" appears below the image. "We couldn't have made the message work without being as slick as the original ad," Dodds explains.

"Technology has the potential to allow us to communicate what we want to communicate — we can intervene in it," she says.

But to what extent is technology itself responsible for propelling the ad industry's relentless drive towards presenting

consumers with the impossible beauty ideal?

impossible norms

Shari Graydon, from Mediawatch, a

magnified by percentages.

"But Cindy Crawford's face on the cover of Cosmo doesn't tell you that part," comments media critic Nadia Hammond, who educates women's groups on media literacy. "Technology has made the images more pervasive in a way that ironically makes them less visible," she adds.

And according to Dorita Shemie at the Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia ward at the Douglas Hospital, unrealistic virtual images present a real physical danger for women whose perception of the beauty ideal is based on a computer generated representation. "Technology has improved the quality of the images and increased the social pressures in our society to look thin and be preoccupied with appearance," Shemie says.

manufacturing mirages

The fact that computers eliminate evidence of doctoring means that consumers, don't always recognise the fact that images have been altered, blurring the distinction between image and reality. People tend to think that if something's been done to a photograph, they'll know," Graydon explains.

"Women aren't comparing themselves with other women, they're comparing themselves to what whatever fashion industry decides women should look like and digitally formulate," Hammond says.

As a result, women become alienated from how they actually appear. "We psychologically and emotionally consume images in a way that is not rational, because the images themselves are irrational, and the way that they are manufactured is irrational," she comments.

But according to Dodds, blaming technology for the unrealistic images of women in the media misses the mark. According to Dodds, technology works in conjunction with pre-existing power relations in society, it doesn't change them. "It's easy to demonize technology, but ultimately, its the art director who decides what to do with it — it's just another cog in the wheel of the industry."

Dodds points out that several different types of image manipulation have been synonymous with photography long before computer programmes like Photoshop even existed. "Image manipu-

lation traditionally took place in the dark-room, or on the light table with airbrushing and touch-ups — technology just makes it slicker and faster," she explains.

power politics

The displacement of image distortion from the layout table to the computer screen doesn't alter the underlying objectification of women in the media, she argues. "There is an implied structure unrelated to technology itself. For instance, the act of taking a photograph of a model is rarely questioned - it means image of woman for sale based on a construction of sexuality."

But it's the images themselves, that women find offensive according to a recent study conducted by Mediawatch. The study found that three quarters of all women were offended by the portrayal of women in ad campaigns. "The problem is, most of the resistance is silent, and that allows companies to dismiss women's concern's as marginal" Graydon comments.

Dodd emphasizes the need for women to counter the images by intervening in the process by which the images are being manufactured. "From a feminist perspective, the big mistake is to run away from it. We should be focusing on who is creating the software and building the images in the virtual world." And in the high tech industry, those people have traditionally been men.

As such, the sexual division of labour within the advertising industry may help explain why certain images are produced and for whose purposes.

"The tech industry is dominated by young white men: We are necessarily going to get narratives constructed from their fantasies which are not usually in the best interest of women."



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Klueznick, 31

Maryse
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Maryse Leclair, 23

Anne-Marie
Lemay, 27

Sonia Pelletier, 28

Michele
Richard, 21

Annie Turcotte, 21

Annie
St. Arneault, 23

Genevieve
Bergeron, 21

Helene Colgan, 23

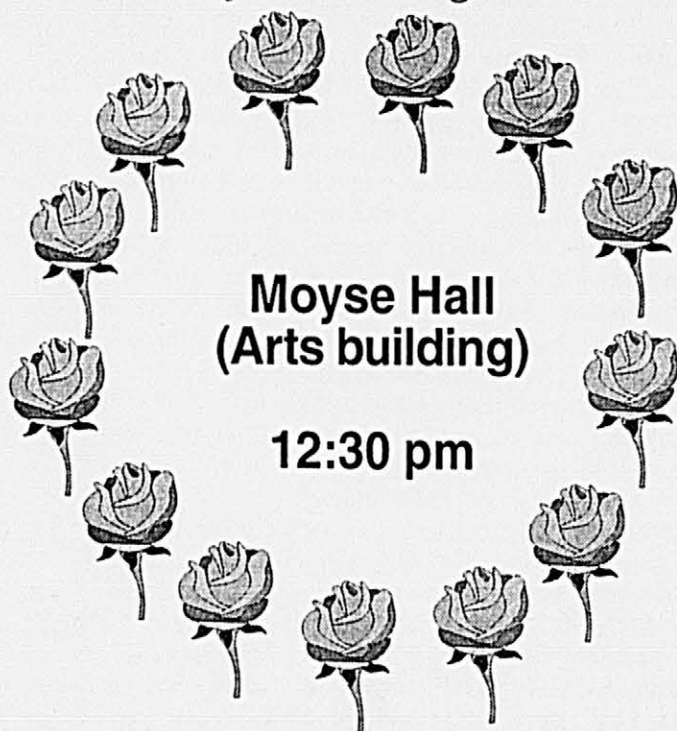
Barbara
Daigneault, 22

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Maud
Haviernick, 29

Nathalie Croteau, 23

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Zapatismo mobilisation on the 'net

*Can the 'net be a surrogate
for activist work?*

by Joanne Matulis

Since their uprising on January 1, 1994, the words and ideas of Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) have been circulating through cyberspace. And the mainstream media has hyped this fact while ignoring the internet's greater contribution to international solidarity work.

For the pro-democracy movement in Mexico, the 'net has been an integral tool for international activism in the 1990s. Accessibility to information is one thing, organising is quite another.

Trail blazing on the information highway began "prior to the Zapatista uprising, (when) computer networks had been utilised extensively by grassroots groups in Canada, the United States, and Mexico to oppose NAFTA", states Accion Zapatista, a solidarity group based in Austin, Texas.

"After January 1, 1994, both pre-existing and newly created networks in cyberspace made possible a mobilisation and coordination of solidarity that helped limit the Mexican government's military offensive and made possible the opening of a political terrain where the Zapatistas soon out-clashed the government and its apologists."

By no means has the 'net replaced activist work; rather it complements it. And with the 'net's various resources — newsgroups, web sites, electronic mail — expedient communication among previously isolated groups overcomes a major obstacle to social movements.

World wide web pages not only bridge similar sites, but they also create a space for expression and public debate for groups in resistance. Since

the uprising, 26 web sites have been set up for the Zapatistas, creating an network of multilingual resources, in addition to the nine news and conferencing groups.

Harry Cleaver, author of *The Zapatistas and the Electronic Fabric of Struggle*, explains that "grass-roots struggles being carried on in cyberspace (such as the pro-Zapatista efforts) primarily involve the open circulation and open discussion of political ideas, news about events and detailed reports about on-going situations".

On the practical side, the 'net's speed has certainly improved public participation for critical actions. For example, urgent actions — requests for letters denouncing specific occurrences — used to take two to three weeks through the mail to reach the base of support. Now, an electronic campaign sent through the newsgroups can generate thousands of response letters within a few days.

Also, electronic mail has facilitated the coordination of international actions and organising. In the summer of 1996, the EZLN organised a gathering of resistance groups — The Encounter for Humanity and Against Neoliberalism — in Chiapas which resulted in 3,000 participants from around the world. And the 'net was the primary means by which the international organising process occurred.

And since that event, the contacts were established for international hands-on activism. On October 2, simultaneous demonstrations took place in Montréal and several European cities including Paris, in commemoration of the 1968 student massacre in Mexico City. Indeed, this proc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23...

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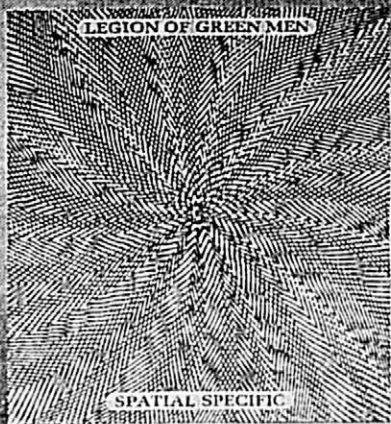
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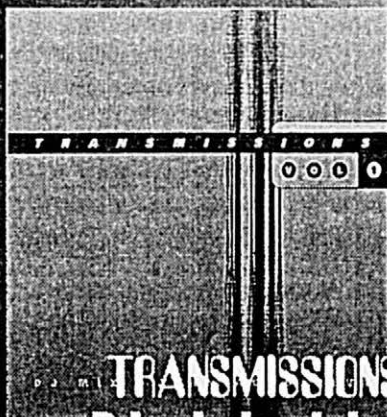
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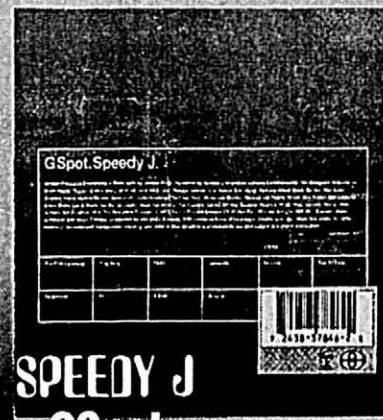
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NET ACTIVISM

Progressive sites for your cyber browsing

Queer

Queer Resource Directory
(www.qrd.org/qrd/)

Extensive on-line resources about queer people, culture, history.

Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium
(www.lsisisters.com)

Site of the famous queer bookstore in Vancouver.

infoQueer
(server.berkeley.edu/mblga/)
Electronic information resource for queer people.

Eastvillage's online soap is more than TV...



...IT'S MOUSE-DRIVEN COVERT MARKETING

by Mike Cullen

Click. Click. Click.

Wait, are those long nights at the computer getting you down? Is internet surfing becoming ho-hum? Sigh not, as Eastvillage.com offers you a site to whittle those extra online hours away. The cyber-soap opera serves up virtually the same thing as its TV predecessors with all the trappings and shortcomings of the internet.

Described by *Newsweek* as "Melrose Place/90210 meets *Slacker*," (take it as you will) Eastvillage is based on a fictional narrative surrounding the East Village quarter of Manhattan. The site has all the links you would expect from the web that are not technically possible on a TV format: bios of the characters, history, and an episode archive.

Bios? Eastvillage made sure that the site included in-depth fictitious background information. The usual stats "desert island disks" (CDs you wouldn't want to be without if you were stranded) are all there. Most people don't write this much information on their tax returns.

But trifles aside, the soap is mainly text accompanied by audio samples, video clips and photos — all narrated by the principle character, Eve. The content of Eve's thoughts are predictably sappy. An excerpt from Friday, November 22's 'episode' reveals, "Duncan had invited Eve over for a 'romantic dinner,' as he called it. She kept picturing herself stranded on a desert island with him, the two of them dressed in nothing but loincloths, just like in *The Blue Lagoon*."

Now that some of you have finally stopped retching, let's get to the heart of the hook. Everything about Eastvillage seems to be geared towards grabbing the

audience, updating them in a matter of minutes and thereby sucking them in.

Wanna chat with other viewers? Eastvillage has its own internet relay chat software. Writing is more your style? Visit related bulletin board systems where you can read and write yourself silly. And want to get the inside scoop? Check out the subplots for each character, which have audio and video footage not on the main links — for a price.

There's a catch to using all these extra features. Pathfinder Entertainment, Eastvillage's parent company, requires you to register and pay a fee. But once you get in, the messages and games are accessible.

By the time you get this far into the site, however, if you figure in your connection rates, you'll have spent quite a bit of time and money already.

Eastvillage isn't so much about a soap opera but a veiled attempt to sell diversified online services under the daytime TV genre banner. Most online service operations, like America Online, are up front about their purpose, but Eastvillage and Pathfinder Entertainment offer services within a service within a service. Like a dove within a chicken within a pig within a cow on a spit. Except all you're left with when you get to the inside of things is pretty small when you consider the big picture.

But if you cannot resist the suction going from your wallet to your screen, Eastvillage might relieve those hours of staring at music.

You can reach the Eastvillage web site at <http://www.eastvillage.com>.

Bisexual Resource List
(ftp.qrd.org/qrd/www/orgs/brc/bri-toc.html)

Transexual Menace
(www.echonyc.com/~degrey/Menace.html)
International organisation focusing on the issues facing the Transgender Community.

Women

Canadian Women's Internet Association
(www.women.ca)
Extensive resources on violence, women's health, spirituality, sexuality, advocacy. This week, the association is sponsoring an internet candlelight vigil (www.women.ca/violence/candle.html) in remembrance of the women killed on December 6.

NotVictims
(www.unc.edu/ljuliette/notvictims.html)
Resource site for such topics as sexual abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence.

The Survivor's Page
(cam043212.student.utwente.nl)
Dedicated to all survivors of sexual abuse and rape. Includes stories from survivors and ways to get in touch with other survivors

Guerrilla Girls
(www.voyagerco.com/gg/gg.html)
Group of women artists and artists who make posters about discrimination.

Feminist Majority Foundation
(www.feminist.org)
Huge web site with links to feminist groups, news, and activism.

Environment

EarthNetwork
(www.earthnetwork.org)
Environmental media group which has video clips to produce activist videos.

EcoMall
(www.ecomall.com)
Database of eco-friendly companies.

Animal Rights Law Centre
(www.animal-law.org/)
Site at Rutgers University that offers case studies and resources for animal rights activists.

ExToxNet
(ace.orst.edu/info/extoxnet/)
Database of pesticide toxicity written for the non-expert.

Enviro\$en\$e
(es.inel.gov)
Provides information about pollution prevention, alternative resources and solvent substitutes.

Racism

Refuse & Resist
(www.calyx.com/~refuse/)

Against Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance
(www.ftech.net/~worldlib/IFLRYother/raixcampaign.html)
Participates actively in the Council of Europe Youth Campaign against racism, xenophobia, anti-semitism and intolerance.

The MultiCultural Alliance
(branson.org/mca/)
In support of teachers of colour.

Artists against Racism
(www.vrx.net/aar/)

Non-profit organisation geared towards educating youth worldwide with renowned artists taking a visible stand against racism.

Just Cause
(www.webcom.com/~justcaus/)
Recognises an urgent need to work toward the elimination of hate.

HateWatch
(hatewatch.org)
Group that monitors hate groups on the net.

Labour

LaborNet
(www.igc.org/igc/labornet/)
Site on a variety of issues related to labor rights.

Strike Page
(www.igc.apc.org/strike/)
Site about the state of strikes.

Union Resource Network
(www.unions.org)
Aims to get all unions on the web.

Alberta Federation of Labour
(www.afl.org)
Dedicated to the proposition that Albertans, as workers, are entitled to jobs, to fair and adequate wages, to union representation, to free collective bargaining and the right to strike.

Yahoo's Labor Union Listing
(www.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Organizations/Professional/Unions)
Long list of international and American unions

Alternative news

Canada NetLinks
(<http://www.netlinks.net/Netlinks/CANADA/>)
Extensive collection of Canadian media links.

Disinformation
(<http://www.disinfo.com/>)
A site big enough to satisfy even the most paranoid conspiracy theorist. Good links and intelligent articles.

WorldWide News
(<http://www.discover.co.uk/NET/NEWS/news.html>)
Huge collection of links to media outlets around the world.

Institute for Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
(<http://www.fair.org/>)
Weekly media coverage review and a good report on corporate control of the media.

Aboriginal

Innu Nation
(<http://www.web.apc.org/~innu/>)
One of the best First Nations sites on the web.

Original Women's Network
(Alpha.Remcan.Ca/abinfohwy/aboorg/own.html)
Website for a political action group that fights for the rights of Aboriginal women.

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
(<http://www.unicom.net/peltier/index.html>)
Main site for the LPDC, a group fighting to have political prisoner Leonard Peltier re-

NET ACTIVISM IS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

ACCESS DENIED

Is the internet breaking down barriers or just creating more for the poor?

by Samana Siddiqui

"Everybody's surfin' now, everybody's learning how" announced the headlines of a Winnipeg Free Press article about the internet last January. But just who does this "everybody" include? According to the media hype, the internet is becoming the communication medium of the future. Students, businesspeople, even monks are on the 'net. But while it has been hailed as the "great democratiser" by those who believe it breaks down geographical and other barriers, the barrier to the poor has been ignored, according to some welfare and anti-poverty activists.

Out of Reach

"If you have a monthly income of \$396 or even \$500 a month, how can you afford to spend \$2,000 on a personal computer or more," asks Jean Lalande of the Welfare Rights Committee in Point St. Charles. Lalande is referring to expenses including a modem, and internet server fees — items inaccessible to low-income individuals. Although some places, like downtown Atwater Library offer free internet services, most access has to be paid for.

Recent data indicate that computer use among Canadians is directly proportional to income. According to Statistics Canada, in 1995, 53% of households in the highest income quintile owned computers compared to only 12% of those in the lowest quintile.

The need for expensive equipment also calls into question the "democratising" influence of the internet compared to the information tools of the past.

"The price is more prohibitive than television," says Michael Kay, coordinator of the NDG Food Depot. "It was easier for folks to buy television or books when those were the main sources of knowledge." As well, there is a fear among the poor that the internet will amount to a job-stealing technological monstrosity like other labour-saving devices which have eliminated jobs in the past.

"There's a general awareness that it's there but more on the side of fear of the unknown, in the sense that a lot of people are concerned with job loss," says Tamara Kater, administrative assistant at Multi-Caf, a community kitchen in Cote-des-Neiges.

But other activists, like David Alper of Project Genesis, see the internet as a tool that can improve computer skills to correspond to the changing job market.

"Computer literacy is more and more becoming a given," he says.

Kay adds that the internet can be taken a step further than this. "I've heard of people looking for jobs on the 'net," he says.

It's the more pressing problem of hunger that stops the poor from taking more of an interest in this technological revolution.

"I think that poor folks might not care about access because they're worried about getting their next meal and they also feel it's been put beyond their reach, so why bother fretting about it," says Kay.

Serge Lareault is editor of *Journal Itinérance*, a Montréal newspaper by and for the homeless. He says interest in the internet among the poor does exist, despite their economic situation. At the paper's office, where one terminal is made available to the homeless people who sell the paper, there is a definite desire to learn about the internet and use it, according to Lareault.

"Even if they are poor, they are aware that they must learn to use the computer," he says.

Lareault also points out that the internet has helped many homeless people break through isolation and depression.

"Imagine you are a poor person and you don't have the opportunity to go anywhere. You are poor and depressed often. Thanks to the internet, there are groups which get onto the internet and...discuss directly with other people all over the world."

Other activists see the internet as a useful tool in disseminating information about poverty itself.

"If we let the rich have access to the internet, only the rich will talk amongst themselves, while groups like ours are doing research and give information about poverty," says Lareault. "For an organisation it can be very worthwhile in (finding) new ideas of how to run things," adds Marina Boulos, executive director of Le Bon Dieu Dans La Rue, a mobile outreach programme that distributes food, clothing and offers referral services from a van for young people under 21.

Another group using the internet this way is Concordia University's Campus Ministry, which provides emergency food vouchers for students, as well as cheap meals through its program Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. They have put up a web page about their Spirit of Christmas Fund to raise awareness — and money for these services.

"In one sense, the internet is being used to fund both of these programmes," says Bernie Glover, secretary of Campus Ministry. He adds, it's "making people also aware there is a problem of hunger on campus."

In addition, Glover says the internet is used to make students facing financial difficulty aware of resources in the community and other places, like food banks and where they can buy cheap clothes. But despite its usefulness, the internet is not on the list of priorities for other anti-poverty groups. "Even though it would be a nice idea to get onto the 'net and network with other anti-poverty groups in Canada, we're too busy feeding people," says Kater, adding that in the last three years, the number of people coming to Multi-Caf for help has increased by 71%.

"It's hard to put aside money for projects like that when you're trying to keep people fed," adds Kay. "I think the interest is there but the orientation is not in that direction because it would be hard to justify an expenditure of \$2,500 per year per terminal for an anti-poverty group. That's about as much as we (would) put in for a collective kitchen project."

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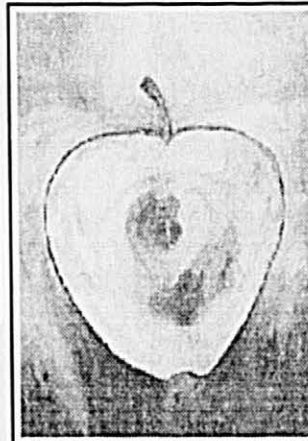
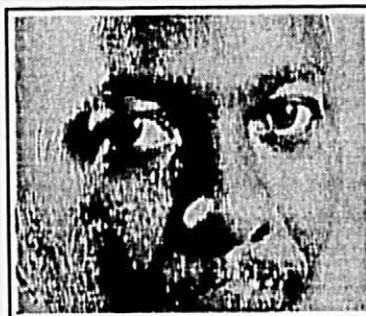
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FINDING NEW DIRECTIONS

Asking Different Questions shows how some women are changing science

by Idella Sturino

It's a well-known fact that women now make up 50% of the workforce. And yet, in the fields of science and engineering, they remain few and far between.

One reason for this is that the few women who make it far enough into the world of 'science' often find a hostile environment awaiting them, and must choose whether to sink or swim. For those who choose the latter, the question becomes, in what direction?

In the documentary *Asking Different Questions: Women and Science*, Montréal filmmakers Gwynne Basen and Erna Buffy address this question, chronicling the work of four women in science who have rejected the scientific establishment, but continue in their fields to push the application of science beyond its traditional confines of applied science, profit-driven research and the myth of objectivity.

"What was interesting was the women still out there doing the work," says Buffy, explaining that they didn't want to make a film simply about the chilly climate and the many women who leave it.

"We wanted to show young women and men that there are useful and alternative things they can do with a science degree," she stresses, noting that many students aren't entering science because they doubt it can be used toward social change.

"It's really important," Buffy asserts, "that more films be made that give people the vocabulary they need to critique science and technology, but also to show young people you can work in these fields and still be critical of the process."

Indeed, the main theme which emerges from the film is that it is possible to reconcile science and social conscience.

What the four women interviewed — Ursula Franklin, Rosalin Cairncross, Karen Messing and Peggy Tripp-Knowles — have in common is their critique of mainstream science.

Messing, a Montréal-based scientist,

teams up with workers to address occupational health concerns. The co-director of the Centre for the Study of Health and the Environment, Messing points out in the film that most research about occupational health fails to consult workers themselves, and that scientific research in general has historically excluded women from samples.

Her approach, as with the other women interviewed, is not only unconventional, but progressive. And, like the others, the way she approaches science has much to do with her identity as a woman.

Franklin, a prominent peace activist and professor in the department of metallurgy and material science at the University of Toronto, argues that women often have a different approach to science because they have been historically marginalised. But she is quick to point out that women per se do not necessarily have a different perspective on how science should be undertaken.

"When asked if science will change as more women come into it, it's an open question," Franklin muses in the film, adding that it will depend on whether women continue to relate to the history of women's marginalisation, or whether they feel accepted into the mainstream.

As Tripp-Knowles says excitedly at one point in the film, "A lot of people think that just getting women in science won't be enough.... What will make a difference is getting more feminists in science, people more aware of gender issues."

Yet just as it is important to have more feminists in science, it is also as important for their stories to be told.

But the space for independent documentary filmmaking, especially by and about women, seems to be shrinking these days. *Asking Different Questions* was produced in part by Studio D, the now-defunct National Film Board affiliated studio dedicated to producing women's films.

"It's a really difficult time right now for independent documentary films," comments Basen, "The loss of Studio D was

an enormous loss."

Asking Different Questions: Women and Science is available from the NFB and some public libraries. Also check CFCF 12 and the Discovery Channel.

DAILY PHOTO BY DAVE RYHER



GWYN BASEN AND ERNA BUFFY

KNOWING THERE ARE WOMEN IN THE FIELDS OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WHO COMBINE SCIENCE WITH ACTIVISM ENCOURAGED RINA MACKILLOP, PROFILED IN *ASKING DIFFERENT QUESTIONS*, TO STICK WITH HER STUDIES IN THE FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, WHERE THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS ARE MALE.

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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE (1995/96):
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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, GRADUATE STUDIES (1996/97):
710 MEN / 220 WOMEN

SOURCES: MCGILL PUBLIC RELATIONS; FACULTY OF ENGINEERING.

ZAPATISTAS ON THE 'NET

...CONTINUED FROM P. 19

ess underscores that the 'net is not a surrogate for effective social mobilisation. Another initiative was the creation of the Intercontinental Network of Alternative Communication (Spanish acronym RICA), a concept designed to accelerate the intercontinental circulation of resistance strategies among diverse groups.

The electronic realm provides a forum by which activists can locate each other but developing contacts requires the classical modes of communication. "Computer communications have by no means replaced other essential forms of organising, from face to face encounters to radio programmes, underground newspaper articles, revolutionary artwork, music and the occasional TV show", explains Accion Zapatista.

The group goes on to say, "But computers have made possible a more rapid dissemination of information and analysis than has ever been possible in grassroots movements. Not only has dissemination been fast, but the ease of archiving in gopher and web sites has made possible the creation of easily accessible reservoirs of information unlike anything we have had before".

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Web commercialisation is in your face and everywhere

by Mike Cullen

Usually you like it when people want your attention. You love it. But these are ads, and Internet ones to boot. You're just a potential customer. Advertising on the internet is the most prominent topic about the Web besides the omnipresent virus subject...more or less. But no one can deny that the proliferation of ads on internet media such as the Web has been alarming. Since the internet user boom of the early '90s, advertising has taken to the internet like flies to flypaper, and has established an industry rivaling the physical media of billboards and magazines.

"It's out of control now," says Kit Griffin, western advertising manager of the newspaper *Canada Computer Paper*, of the explosion of companies catering to internet advertising clients.

The industry has expanded so fast that

the total worth of the internet advertising industry is all ready impossible to estimate, according to Griffin.

Besides companies already on the web who openly solicit advertising on their Web pages to visitors, the direct marketing segment of the advertising business has exploded. These agencies help clients target their markets on the internet to users with specific interests.

So your favourite web page on Hollywood celebrities might have an ad for *People* magazine because they target your interest and those people who visit the site too.

The corollary to this is that interest specific classifieds are available on the Web. Anything from personals to real estate, can be found on the Web. This makes the Web an ad space on par with daily newspapers classifieds; even more so since the elec-

tronic format is easier to update and modify.

But the chances of hit and miss are steeper in cyberspace, so the need for effective target marketing is paramount.

"Everyone is trying to specialise," says Griffin, "but some companies are better off in places like the (BCTel) Yellow Pages Online," rather than finding their online market niche.

Rate-wise, internet advertising runs along the same lines as print advertising — time and space are the two factors that determine price. For example, the *Canada Computer Paper* has a rating scheme for size of ads divided into Gold, Silver and Bronze, which designate the location and size of ads. Gold rated ads are larger and in more prominent places than Silver ones and so on. Each of these rates are further adjusted

by how long the ads run.

Also common is for commercial websites to have their own listings for related services that form another avenue for marketing. Hotlinks to advertiser webpages are reasonably priced around the \$50 range for one week.

However, this kind of exposure is less prominent than the newer breed of billboard-esque ads, like the ones that litter Web search engines. Using the newest plugins and features of Web browsers like Netscape Navigator, animation and sound can shock the viewer into paying attention. Kind of like a virtual cattle prod — it gets your attention fast.

Fortunately, users will get used to them like beer ads in bathrooms, but they will keep you awake — the days of falling asleep at the computer may well be gone forever.

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

Campus Recreation

INTRAMURAL SPORTS - REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 9, 1996

SPORT	CATEGORY	COST GST & PEST included	REGISTRATION	NUMBER OF PLAYERS		CAPTAINS' MEETING	PLAY BEGINS	GAME DAYS AND TIMES	LOCATION
				TO REGISTER	MAXIMUM				
BASKETBALL LEAGUE	MEN A, B WOMEN	\$80.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	10	16	Jan. 14, 18:30 hrs. Fieldhouse	Jan. 19	Mon. 18:50-22:50 Tue. 17:30-22:30 Sun. 11:00-18:00	Fieldhouse
3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT	MEN WOMEN	\$20.00 per team	Feb. 5, 09:00 to Feb. 12, 17:00	3	3	Draw posted Campus Rec Office Feb. 14, 17:00 hrs.	Feb. 15	Feb. 15, 16	Fieldhouse
BALL HOCKEY LEAGUE	MEN A, B WOMEN	\$80.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	10	16	Jan. 14, 18:30 hrs. Fieldhouse	Jan. 17	Wed. 19:15-22:15 Thurs. 19:15-22:15 Fri. 19:15-22:15 Sat. 09:00-18:00 Sun. 09:00-18:00	Gymnasium 1 & 2
BROOMBALL LEAGUE	MEN WOMEN CO-REC	\$100.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	Men - 10 Women - 10 Co-rec - 5 Men & 5 Women	16	Jan. 14 18:30 hrs. Fieldhouse	Jan. 18	Mon. to Fri. 17:00-22:00 Sat. 09:00-18:00 Sun. 09:00-18:00	Molson Stadium Rink
INNERTUBE WATERPOLO LEAGUE	CO-REC	\$80.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	7 Men & 5 Women	18	Jan. 14, 18:30 hrs. Fieldhouse	Jan. 18	Sat. 12:00-16:00 Sun. 12:00-16:00	Currie Pool
INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE	MEN WOMEN CO-REC	\$80.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	Men - 10 Women - 10 Co-rec - 5 Men & 5 Women	16	Jan. 14, 18:30 hrs. (M & W & Co-Rec) Fieldhouse	Jan. 18	Mon. 18:50-22:50 Tues. 17:30-22:30 Wed. 19:30-22:30 Thur. 17:30-22:30 Sat. 09:00-18:00	Fieldhouse C & D
SQUASH TOURNAMENT	MEN A, B WOMEN	\$7.00 per player	Mar. 12, 09:00 to Mar. 19, 17:00	1	N/A	Draw posted Campus Rec Office Mar. 20, 17:00 hrs.	Mar. 21	Mar. 21 - 23	Sports Complex Squash Courts
TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT	MEN WOMEN	\$7.00 per player	Jan. 29, 09:00 to Feb. 5, 17:00	1	N/A	Draw posted Campus Rec Office Feb. 7, 17:00 hrs.	Feb. 8	Feb. 8 & 9	Fitness Room
TENNIS TOURNAMENT (INDOOR)	SINGLES MEN WOMEN	\$7.00 per player	Mar. 19, 09:00 to Mar. 26, 17:00	1	N/A	Draw posted Campus Rec Office Mar. 27, 17:00 hrs.	Mar. 28	Mar. 28 - 30 (Tentative)	Fieldhouse
VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE	MEN WOMEN	\$80.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	10	16	Jan. 14, 18:30 hrs. Fieldhouse	Jan. 20	Mon. 19:15-22:15 Tue. 19:15-22:15 Wed. 19:15-22:15	Gymnasium 1 & 2
VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE	CO-REC A,B	\$80.00 per team	Dec. 9, 09:00 to Jan. 14, 17:00	5 Men & 5 Women	16	Jan. 14, 18:30 hrs. Fieldhouse	Jan. 22	Wed. 19:30-22:30 Thur. 17:30-22:30 Fri. 18:50-22:50	Fieldhouse A & B
4 ON 4 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT	CO-REC	\$20.00 per team	Mar. 5, 09:00 to Mar. 12, 17:00	2 Men & 2 Women	5	Draw posted Campus Rec Office Mar. 14, 17:00 hrs.	Mar. 15	March 15 & 16 (Tentative)	Fieldhouse

- In many sports space is limited — registration is on a first come first served basis.
- Please note that registration deadlines are strictly enforced.
- A representative from each team must attend the captains' meeting for that sport.

Registration: Campus Recreation Office G35
Sports Complex, 475 Pine Avenue West

The Instructional Program has Something for **Everyone!!**



Course Registration Begins

Wednesday, January 15, 1997
08:00 - 18:00 hrs.

SPORTS COMPLEX
475 PINE

Courses offered in the areas of:

- Aquatics
- Dance
- Fitness
- Martial Arts
- Outdoor Pursuits
- Racquets
- Varia

Most classes begin the week of
January 20, 1997

PAY AS YOU GO FITNESS DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Beginning Monday, December 2nd through Sunday, December 15th, the
PAY AS YOU GO FITNESS SCHEDULE is as follows.

Aerobics	Mon/Wed/Fri	16:00 - 16:55
	Tues/Thurs	17:30 - 18:25
	Sat&Sun	12:00 - 12:55
Step	Tues/Thurs	16:30 - 17:25
	Mon/Wed/Fri	17:00 - 17:55
	Sat & Sun	13:00 - 13:55
Cost:		\$2.50/\$ 1.70**

** Booklets of 10 tickets for \$17.00 purchased in advance (Members only).

All classes will be held in the Fitness Room.

INFORMATION • 398-7011

C-3PO takes over

by Samantha Murphy

Like many other Islanders, I used to attend the Charlottetown Festival's performance of *Anne of Green Gables* most summers. Unlike the majority of people, however, I would hear the show from the orchestra pit where my violin teacher worked.

Once a year, I would sit in the pit and get a different perspective of the world of Avonlea. The musicians always welcomed me or other students sitting in for the night. Then one summer, there were less musicians, and in their place, a shiny new synthesizer.

Over the years, the effects of improved technology on the manufacturing sector have hardly gone unnoticed. But even as robots replaced people on the assembly lines and the ranks of the unemployed swelled in response, few realised just how far the consequences would extend.

The culture of technology expressed through science fiction portrayed the society of the future as one of leisure where tasks of all sorts were performed by C-3POs. Technology was given the mission of making life easier, more efficient; its inherent benefit was seldom questioned.

But has technology made life too efficient?

Have we gotten lost in our drive to make our tasks easier? In freeing up time for leisure, has society, or rather its managers and engineers, reached a point where jobs are sacrificed in the name of higher profits and increased production?

When robots or computer programmes are created to take over tasks formerly performed by humans, where are the humans to go for bread?

The occasional documentary will investigate the amount of jobs lost in this or that town due to improved technology and more 'efficient' production, but the question of technology and its elimination of human employment has yet to be fully and publicly debated.

But as it becomes increasingly clear that jobs are being cut from all sectors of the economy — and that people are being told they are no longer necessary — we should ask ourselves who gets to make the decisions and who profits from improved production.

After all, these changes are affecting people in all professions.

Any music student at McGill can describe the dose of reality they inevitably receive in their compulsory course "Life as a Professional Musician" which dedicates at least one lecture to the danger of being replaced *en masse* by synthesizers.

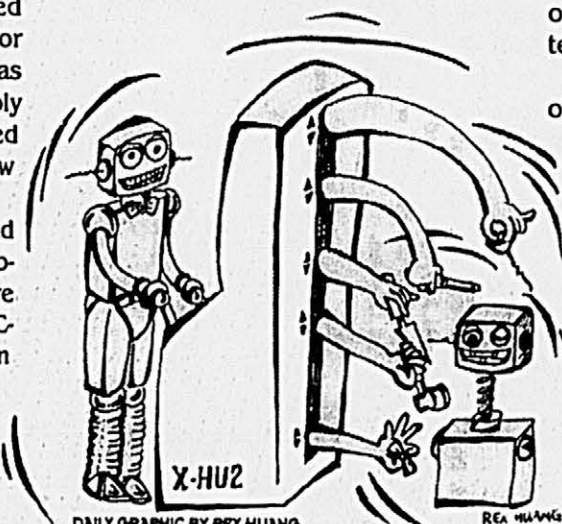
Rather than going to the symphony, at a fraction of the cost, audiences are becoming more and more willing to pay huge prices to see shows like *Phantom of the Opera* that feature only a few musicians and several electronic devices.

This represents a "major hit against tra-

dition and culture," says Reginald Clews, a recent music graduate from McGill. Though electronic music was originally created to produce unique effects, it has been largely co-opted to replace human musicians at the cost of already scarce jobs.

So, while technological innovations aren't necessarily the first choice of a trained composer, as Clews explains, the option of a full orchestra isn't necessarily there, even when the composer or the audience would prefer it otherwise.

Traditionally first on the funding cuts list, music and the arts are constantly being forced to find new ways to make



do in a society that devalues their contributions. "It's a simple budgetary thing," Clews observes.

Finances often an excuse

Current disputes between Cineplex Odeon and its projectionists show that displacement is occurring in the service sector as well.

The projectionists' negotiations with Cineplex Odeon have highlighted how the debate can become more complicated. Here, the dispute involves two questions, that of the relation of wages to skills involved and the trend of lay-offs due to technological innovations.

While Cineplex claims that "projectionists earn a disproportionate wage for performing a job that is no longer considered highly skilled," Laval LaPerriere from the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 262, asserts that projection work has become more complicated due to new technology.

Meanwhile, LaPerriere accuses Cineplex of planning to cut at least 80% of the projectionist positions and maintains that managers are being trained to replace the employees slated to be laid off. Negotiations are already taking place between Cineplex Odeon and Local 173 of the Motion Picture Projectionists' Union in Ontario. Unions in Québec are preparing now for negotiations as their contracts come up next June.

Unlike most situations in the music industry, however, the motives for trimming

Technological change pushes workers out of the way

out workers in other sectors seem to be profit. Says LaPerriere, "financial problems at Cineplex, they don't exist." And, even assuming that in this case technology has in fact made the job easier, the question then becomes why accept technology at the expense of employment?

But with labour disputes treated in isolation, it's easy to lose track of the ubiquitous issue of who has the power to determine the role that technology should play in society. This leaves technology free to develop unchecked by critical voices speaking from outside of the sphere of technological production.

Banks provide a more clear example of the relationship between power and technology.

Anyone with a bank account is aware of attempts to wean users off teller services, using higher service charges as penalties.

The Toronto Dominion bank, to pick one randomly, offers a student plan where users are encouraged to do everything through machines, while a fee is charged after the second face-to-face interaction with a teller each month. It is cheaper for the banks to process transactions this way, explains Emily Ioannou, an agent for the TD Access Telephone Banking service. "Now we have the technology to offer these kinds of services," she says.

For the banks, this might mean that some employees are now freed up to look after more "sophisticated transactions," according to Ioannou. But for many people, it is disconcerting to know that there is a conscious attempt to convince customers not to walk up to the counter, especially if they are not there for the more "sophisticated" (read big dollar) business.

Yet in a period of recession and cutbacks, banks have enjoyed record highs in profits. Even as banks proudly announce downsizing, it is increasingly less apparent why this should be necessary in the first place. When one looks at the types of jobs being cut, it's clear that teller services are generally the first to go. As the personal element of banking is reduced as much as possible, is there an increased efficiency for the customer that truly justifies lost opportunity for employment?

So managerial bodies make decisions that have little direct effect on them and many aspects of life become more impersonal as people lose their jobs to machines. If the reason for massive lay-offs due to new technologies is profit for companies, shouldn't society, which pays dearly for increasing unemployment, have some say in the direction and shape that change is taking?

Opportunities for debate rarely seem to present themselves in a society that teaches us to think of technology solely as progress or improvement. We shrug and continue to invent ourselves into superfluity.

NET ACTIVISM FROM PAGE 20

leased. Press releases and current info on Peltier, as well as links to other Peltier and aboriginal sites.

Bill's Aboriginal Links

(<http://www.bloorstreet.com/300block/abori.htm>)

The unquestioned best site for links. If it is indigenous and online, Bill has it catalogued.

Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples

(<http://www.io.org/~casnp/>)

Run by Kahnawake traditionalist Kahn-Tineta Horn, the CASNP site has up-to-date information on various traditionalist struggles in Canada.

Fourth World Documentation Project

(<http://www.halcyon.com/FWDP/fwdp.html>)

Handy archive of documents related to indigenous people worldwide.

Government

Fax-off

(<http://www.canoe.ca/SpeakeasyFax/home.html>)

Fax your MP! Fax anyone's MP! Fax the Prime Minister! For free! This service allows you to type a message to basically anyone on parliament hill. By the miracle of the internet, it is then delivered to the MP through their fax machine.

Champlain

(<http://192.77.55.3/champlain.html>)

Search engine for federal documents available on the web, searchable by keyword.

The Parti-Quebecois

(<http://www.its.qc.ca/PQ/>)

Official site of the governing party in Québec City.

The Federal Liberals

(<http://www.liberal.ca/>)

National day-care. The CBC. The GST. Native self-government. Count the broken Red Book 'promises' at this handy web-site.

Human Rights

National Committee for Democracy in Mexico

(<http://www.igc.apc.org/ncdm/>)

A San-Antonio based group that is the 'official sanctioned' internet web-site for the Zapatistas.

Diana

(<http://www.law.uc.edu/Diana/>) (Diana: Human rights d-base)

A human rights database, including country information, human rights reports, and other data.

Human Rights Watch

(<http://www.hrw.org/>)

This international organisation maintains reports on countries worldwide.

Freeburma

(<http://sunsite.unc.edu/freeburma/freeburma.html>)

Large web site with relevant info about human rights abuses in Burma.

The Multinational Monitor

(<http://www.essential.org/monitor/monitor.html>)

Online version of the magazine that chronicles the antics of multinational corporations worldwide.

Web magazines for the electronically impaired

by Jonah Brucker-Cohen

Have you taken a close look at your local magazine store lately? Have you noticed the gratuitous amounts of computer and internet related magazines that used to sit on the bottom shelf, but now have their own rack? With the late '90s boom of the World Wide Web, the internet has become the greatest opportunity for commoditisation since television in the 1950s. Whether we like it or not, people want our money — and unless you never pay the electricity bills, there is no way to escape the onslaught. I spent some money I don't have on three new mags (and one older one) that attempt to put the "internet" back in "internet illiterate." So sit back, relax, and try to digest what the electronic world has forced itself upon us 'real' people.

The Net
www.thenet-usa.com

Aimed at the "N-Generation" (those who trade physical activity for net surfing), *The Net* doubles as a magazine-based search engine or yellow pages for web sites dealing with topics such as desktop video, toys, shopping and reference. It seems silly that online based publications must be off-line in order to secure the acceptance of their digital counterparts. I thought one of the most elemental differences between the web and other media sources was its 'bit for atom' substitution. Instead of carrying the weight of a magazine around with us, we can obtain an infinite amount of information by just sitting down in front of a computer. *The Net* boasts that each of its "blue pages" sections saves "300 trees, 125,000 gallons of water, 550 cubic feet of landfill space, and 1,100 pounds of air emissions." If that's the case, the hypothetical and optimistic notions of the internet's effect on conserving natural resources have gone up in smoke. As an alternative to creating our own print media, *The Net* provides a CD-ROM of web site building software that makes creating a site seem easier than sitting down with this mag. Go figure.

The Web Magazine
www.webmagazine.com

It's difficult to comprehend exactly how hard commoditisation and mainstream culture has hit the Internet. We knew it was inevitable that corporations would take over the web, and now this eventuality has finally materialised. With big business running the show, it's difficult to find underground sites amidst all of the commercial propaganda. If you are sick (like me) of rummaging through search engines, *The Web Magazine* provides a comprehensive overview of sites and will probably become the ultimate source for internet junkies. Whether your interests lie in playing The Virtual Moog (206.65.238.100/lorri/Moog.html), tapping into the Louvre's homepage (mistrail.culture.fr/louvre/louvre.htm), or exploring the art of compulsive gambling at The Blackjack Emporium (game-genie.nvc.ca.us/cgi-bin/bjp), this mag has it all. January's issue review's over 500 sites with 100 word descriptions, lists of the hot five sites in each category, examples of celebrity and obscure photos, and addresses for each site. Although the exterior of the magazine resembles an ad for Hollywood actors (a.k.a. Entertainment Weekly), the interior pages provide bizarre listings of addresses no search would ever uncover.

Yahoo! Internet Life
www.yil.com

Only in its second year, *Yahoo! Internet Life* is a print magazine based on the popular search engine of the same name. Focusing its attention on culture and entertainment, this month's *YIL* includes a detailed cover story on Brent Spiner's (Data from *Star Trek*) search for online intelligence.

Besides being just a database for fizzled out Trekkies, the web is gaining approval as a re-

spected source for both analytical research and supplemental education. Of the four magazines I reviewed, I found *YIL* to be the least dense in information- or reference-related sites and more concentrated on entertainment and computer culture. Their website listings were lacking in detail and size, and each categorisation (such as "Holiday Entertaining," "Angels" (?), "Home Brewing" and "Cigars") was too specialised to retain any worthwhile information. Like their website counterpart, the magazine was littered with unappealing ads that distracted my eyes from the magazine's content.

Wired Magazine
www.wired.com

Already into its fourth year and 47th issue, *Wired Magazine* has become the leading techno-zine among computer fanatics and alternative culture addicts who are in search of new mediums that incorporate their already discovered interests. Articles range from one-on-one discussions with multimedia millionaires (such as Microsoft's Paul Allen in issue #20) to short snippets of "techno-fare," which include new product reviews, interesting tidbits on pop culture artifacts, and opinionated pieces from staff writers about the future of the internet and how it will effect our everyday existence.

Wired preaches to the computer literate or 'wannabe' literates who know some history of computer design and are curious about new technology, the faces behind huge corporations (e.g. Bill Gates- Microsoft), Web Search engines (e.g. Yahoo) or smaller companies who are making headlines (e.g. Id Software). With colourful covers, insightful writers (whose concern tends to focus on the future of the digital age as well as its history), outlandish layout schemes, and an obvious attempt to coax younger readers (who make up most of its audience), *Wired* succeeds as one of the only computer mags that could double as a viable culture catalogue.

After browsing the web for an extended period of time, even the most fanatic user can become either bored or impatient waiting for page after page to download (depending on the speed of your modem). An advantage of having one of these mags beside you on your 'real' desktop is that you can skim over the website highlights while you wait for the computer. It's nice to have the choice addresses listed on paper so that you can type in their URLs (Universal Resource Location) and be on your way. What I found beneficial about the publications were the detailed pictures of the sites (so you can take a sneak peek before loading) and the short descriptions of each. It's important to remember that the web can seem very intimidating to a beginner and according to

Excite (a popular search engine), most of the time "you realise that when you find too much, all you've actually found is that you have to keep searching." Astonishingly enough, once you've become a net junkie, it's difficult to quit.

HARD COPIES

YAHOO!
Internet Life

THE WEB
MAGAZINE

the net

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.60 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.05 per day. General Public: \$5.75 per day, or \$4.90 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. **WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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P E R S O N A L

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McGill University	3480 McTavish	398-0647
Concordia University	1455 De Maisonneuve West, H-222	288-1130
Downtown	2085 Union, L-8	284-1368
UQAM	1613 St-Denis	843-8511
Montréal Université	3200 Jean Brillant, Local B-1270-1	735-8794



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\$3837

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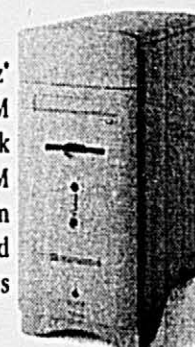
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Performa 6400

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*Other configurations are available.